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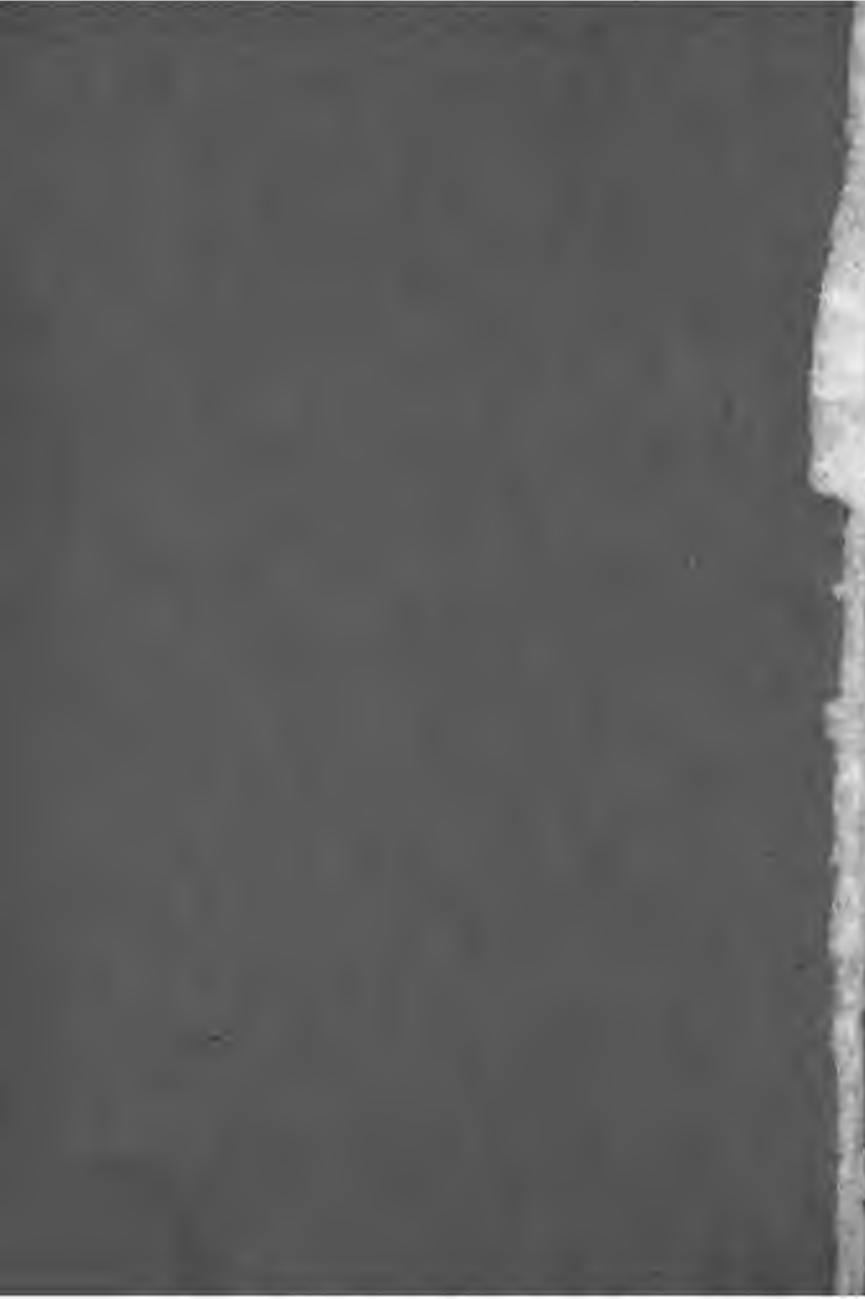
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EVERYCHILD'S SERIES

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HEROES
OF THE NATIONS

BY

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY BERT VALENTINE

New York
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1915

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MARCH 17, 1927

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Set up and electrotyped. Published November, 1915.

Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.

DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS :

You have been working away with the queer, crooked marks printed in books until now you know how to read. How many splendid stories are waiting for you! To be sure they are locked up in books, but whoever can read has the magic key which opens the books. Will you enjoy this book? That depends upon what you like. Some of these stories are about girls and boys. Most of them learned to read and write, though their languages were very different from ours. They enjoyed fine stories as you do. Brave Joan of Arc could not read; but she could pray; and her prayers saved France.

Of course you love your mother and father very dearly, and they love you. So you will understand why Ulysses went to war rather than hurt his baby boy. Suppose you had rid-

den a wild horse, wouldn't your father have been frightened just as Alexander's father was? And I am sure you trust your father as lovingly as Walter Tell trusted his.

Perhaps you have a good friend with whom you spend much time and have many adventures. Then you will not be surprised to read of friends who were loyal to each other one or two thousand years ago. I wonder if you will be friends to each other as long as were David and Jonathan or Roland and Oliver.

Many of you have taken long journeys, have enjoyed seeing curious things, have wished you might manage an aëroplane. Here you will read of little Alfred's long journey to Rome and of the boy Marco Polo, who went to China. How would you like to see such a clock as Haroun's? What is the difference between the boy Columbus watching the ships and you dreaming about the aëroplane?

In every land brave, intelligent girls and boys have lived. They have helped to make their countries free and brave. Every child in the United States who does a brave deed, who stands

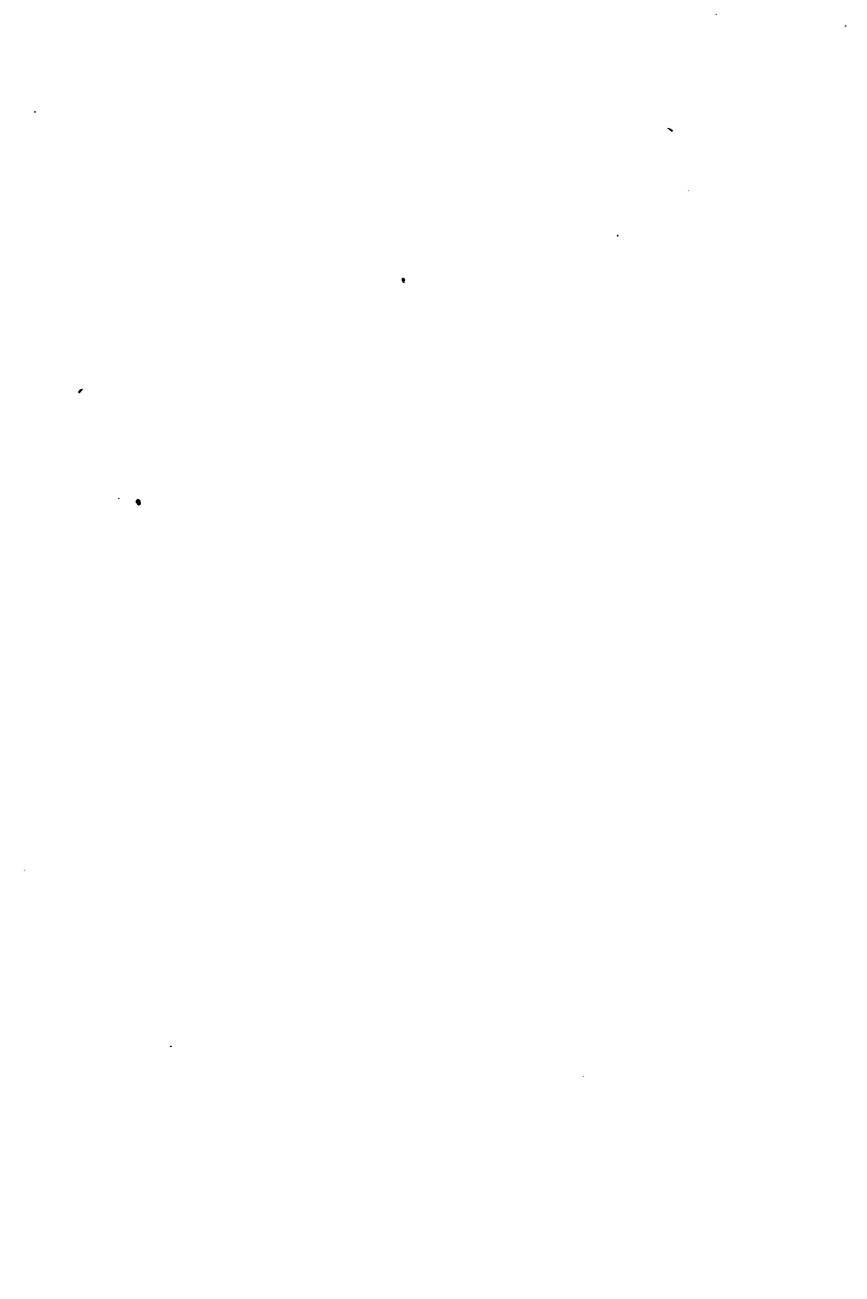
for the right, is helping our country to be more truly

“The land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Hoping that this book will help to make you better American citizens,

Your citizen friend,

THE EDITOR.



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HEROES OF THE NATIONS

JOSEPH, A STORY OF FORGIVENESS

A FAVORITE SON

MANY, many years ago in a land far away in Asia there lived a good old man named Jacob. This man had twelve sons. He and his sons kept sheep and did some farming. Jacob loved all his sons, but there was one whom he loved better than the rest. This son was Joseph, who was next to the youngest.

No doubt Jacob liked him best because he was a boy who could be trusted. Then, too, for a long time he had been the baby boy before Benjamin, the youngest son, was born.

Because he loved Joseph, Jacob made him a beautiful coat of many colors. It was a coat with long sleeves. Joseph was very proud of it. But his brothers were angry because their father

loved Joseph more than he loved them ; and they began to hate Joseph.

One night the boy had a dream. It seemed to him that he and his brothers were out in the fields. The grain had been cut and they were raking it and tying it into sheaves. The sheaf Joseph made stood up and the sheaves his brothers made came and bowed down before his sheaf.

Joseph told this dream to his brothers. It seemed to them that he thought himself better than they were ; his dream made them hate him still more.

HOW JOSEPH WAS SOLD INTO EGYPT

Some time later Joseph's brothers led their father's flock to another place where there was more grass for the sheep to feed upon.

One day Jacob called Joseph to him and said to the boy, who was now seventeen, "Go now, see whether it is well with your brothers and well with the flock, and come back and tell me."

When Joseph got to the place he found that his brothers had gone on farther. He went on



“BEHOLD THIS DREAMER COMETH.”

to them. When his brothers saw him coming, wearing the coat of many colors that his father had made for him, they said to one another : “Be-

hold this dreamer cometh. Let us kill him and cast him into a pit, and we will say that some wild beast has devoured him."

A pit is a dry well and there were many of them in that place.

Then the oldest brother said, "Let us cast him into the pit but let us not kill him." He thought he could come later and take Joseph out. As soon as Joseph came up, they took his coat from him and cast him into a pit.

A little while later some men came riding by on camels on their way to Egypt. One of Joseph's brothers said, "Let us sell the dreamer to these men as a slave." The brothers took Joseph out of the pit and sold him to these men for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was taken into Egypt and sold to one of the king's officers.

JACOB MOURNS HIS LOST SON

The oldest brother had gone away and had not known about the selling of Joseph. When he came to the pit and found Joseph gone, he was very sad and wished that he had tried some other way of saving his brother.

The other brothers took Joseph's coat and dipped it in the blood of a goat and brought it to their father, saying they had found it. Jacob knew the coat and said : "It is my son's coat. A wild beast has devoured him." For many days he mourned and would not be comforted.

Years passed and they heard nothing about Joseph. Most of his brothers were married and had children of their own. Benjamin was now a young man. He was now the one Jacob loved best.

THE DREAMER EXPLAINS THE DREAMS OF OTHERS

After being some years in Egypt Joseph had been cast into prison. He had not done anything wrong, but the wicked wife of his master had said that he did. Two of the king's officers were in the same prison.

One morning they looked sad. Joseph asked them why they looked so sad.

"We have each dreamed a dream," they answered, "and there is no one to tell us what our dreams mean."

Joseph said : "Only with God's help can any one tell their meaning. But tell me the dreams."

Each man told his dream ; and Joseph gave their meaning. He said that in three days the one would be hanged and the other set free. In three days what he said came true.

Joseph had asked the one that was to be set free to speak of him to the king, for he wanted to get out of prison ; but when the officer was set free he forgot all about Joseph. Two full years longer Joseph was kept in prison.

Then it happened that the king of Egypt had a dream. In his dream he saw seven lean cows eat up seven fat ones. The king told his dream to all the wise men of Egypt, but there was no one who could explain it.

At last the officer who had been in prison remembered how Joseph had explained his dream, and he told the king of it. Then the king had Joseph brought out of the prison.

After telling his dream, the king asked Joseph to explain it. Joseph said, "Not I, but God will give the king an answer." And he said there should be seven years of plenty in which the

crops should be good and then there should be seven years in which nothing should grow. He said also that the king ought to find a wise man and set him over the land of Egypt so that the wise man could gather grain during the seven good years and lay it up in the cities and keep it to eat during the seven years in which nothing should grow.

Because the king knew there was no wiser man than Joseph, he chose Joseph himself to do this, and set him over all the land of Egypt.

THE BROTHERS GO TO BUY GRAIN

At last there came a year when no rain fell anywhere. The grain did not grow, and Jacob and his sons could hardly get bread enough to eat. The next year again the grain did not grow and in all the land around none could be found. But they heard that there was grain in Egypt. Then Jacob said to his sons, "Go down into Egypt and buy grain that we may live and not die." Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain, but Benjamin did not go, for Jacob was afraid that harm might come to him.



"YOU ARE SPIES."

When the brothers came to Egypt it was to Joseph that they came to buy the grain. Now Joseph knew them but they did not know him. He did not show that he knew them, for he was afraid that if he told them who he was they might still hate him and not tell Jacob. Then he would not get a chance to see his father again and his brother Benjamin, who was but a little boy when Joseph had last seen him.

To prevent their recognizing him, he spoke to them roughly and said, "You are spies."

They answered: "Indeed, my lord, we are not spies. We have come here to buy grain, for there is no grain left in the land where we dwell. There are twelve brothers of us. The youngest is with our father and one is dead."

Joseph answered and said, "Unless you bring your youngest brother to me that I may see that your words are true, you shall die." He kept one in prison until Benjamin should be brought.

Then he filled their sacks with grain and they departed to return to Jacob and tell what had happened.

Now when they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's money was in his sack, and they knew not what to think and were afraid. Jacob said, "My son Benjamin shall not go down with you, for his brother Joseph is dead and I fear some harm will come to him also."

THE BROTHERS GO AGAIN TO BUY GRAIN

When they had eaten up the grain, however, their father said, "Go again and buy us a little food." To him one of the sons replied, "The man said to us plainly, 'You shall not see my face unless your youngest brother be with you.'"

At last Jacob said, "Take your brother and arise; go again to this man and God give you mercy that he may set free your brother that is in prison."

Taking a present for Joseph and money for the grain, the men went down into Egypt.

When they came to Egypt they bowed themselves to Joseph even to the earth as in the dream years before. He asked them, "Is your father well and is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke?" He then set free the one who was

in prison and he had them all dine with him. Afterwards he had their sacks filled with grain and the money put in each sack as before.

HOW JOSEPH TESTED HIS BROTHERS

Because Joseph wanted to see if his brothers were as cruel and unloving as they had been, he thought out a plan. He put his own silver cup in the sack of the youngest, and when they had gone he told his servant to follow them and accuse them of stealing the cup.

The servant overtook them and said, "You have stolen my master's silver cup."

They said, "If it be found with any of us, let him die."

They searched and found the cup in Benjamin's sack. Now the brothers were not as they had been when they sold Joseph. Not only did they love Benjamin but they knew it would kill their old father if his youngest son,



THEY FOUND THE CUP
IN BENJAMIN'S SACK.

too, should be lost. They did not leave Benjamin as they once would have done, but went back with him and begged Joseph to spare the boy for the sake of his father. One of them, the same one who first had said to sell Joseph, offered to die in Benjamin's place.

JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN

Then Joseph cried, "Cause every man to go out from me," and he said to his brothers, "Come near"; and they came near. He said: "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Be not sad nor angry with yourselves, for God sent me before you to preserve your lives. These two years no grain has grown and there are yet five years in which there shall be no harvest. God hath made me a ruler in Egypt. Make haste and go up to my father and say to him that his son Joseph saith, 'Come down and I will give you land in which to dwell and grain for the five years yet to come.'"

When he had told them this, Joseph fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them.

Then they went home and told Jacob; and at first he could not believe them; but at last he cried: "It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Joseph went to meet his father and fell on his neck and wept. Then said Jacob, "Now I am ready to die since I have seen your face."

The king of Egypt told Joseph to give the best of the land to his father and brothers. This he did. On this land Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years and then died. Joseph lived to be such an old man that he saw his great-grandsons and held them upon his knee. When he was one hundred and ten years old he died.

MOSES, THE FREER OF HIS PEOPLE AND LAWGIVER

A KING WHO KNEW NOT JOSEPH

THE sons of Joseph and his brothers had other sons and these grew up and had children of their own. At last there were a great many of them. They were called the children of Israel, for Jacob was also called Israel.

At last there was a new king in Egypt who did not like the children of Israel. He made them work hard and build cities for him. He was afraid that some time there would be so many of the children of Israel that they would be stronger than his own people. Because of this fear, the king gave a command that every son that should be born unto one of these people should be thrown into the river.

THE BABE IN THE BASKET

Now one woman who had a baby boy thought of a plan to save him. Like every mother, she

loved her child dearly; and she did not want him to be cast into the river. For three months she hid him.

When she could hide him no longer, she made a basket and put the child into it and laid the basket among the weeds that grew at the edge of the river. On the bank afar off she left the sister of the child to see what would happen to it.

Before long the daughter of the king came down to the river and found the basket. She opened it and saw the child. She thought she had



THE KING'S DAUGHTER CAME
DOWN TO THE RIVER AND
FOUND THE BASKET.

never seen a prettier baby; and, when he began to cry, she felt very sorry for him. The sister saw that the princess meant to keep the baby. Running up, she said, "Shall I go and find some one to nurse him for you?"

And the king's daughter said, "Go."

Then the little sister went and brought the child's mother.



THEN HE BECAME A SHEPHERD.

To her, the princess said, "Take this child and nurse it for me and I will pay you."

You may be sure the mother was glad to have her child back again. She cared for him well and he grew fast. After some time she took him to the king's daughter. The mother did not like to give up her boy but she dared not keep him and she knew that he would be treated well. The princess gave him the name of Moses, because the name means to draw out, and she had drawn him out of the water.

MOSES DEFENDS HIS PEOPLE

As Moses grew up he learned all that the wise men of Egypt could teach him. But he liked his own people better than he did the people of Egypt. He was sorry for them when he saw how badly they were treated.

One day Moses saw an Egyptian about to kill a man of Israel, and Moses killed the Egyptian.

When the king heard of this he would have killed Moses, if Moses had not fled into another land. There he married and became a shepherd, keeping the flock of his wife's father.

THE BURNING BUSH

One day when he had led the flock to the mountain he saw a flame of fire in the midst of a bush, but the fire did not burn the bush. And Moses turned aside to see why the bush was not burned.

Then God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and Moses hid his face, for he was afraid.

God said: "I have seen how my people who are in Egypt suffer. I have come down to free them and take them up out of the land of the Egyptians and to bring them unto a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Come and I will send you to the king of Egypt to bring forth the children of Israel out of his land."

Moses answered: "Who am I that I should go? I am slow of speech and cannot talk well."

God said: "Go, and I will be with you. Take your brother with you and he will speak for you."

MOSES LEADS HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT

After hearing God's command, Moses went and called together the old men of Israel and told them how God had sent him to bring them up out

of Egypt. They believed and bowed their heads and worshiped God.

Then Moses went to the king of Egypt and said, "The God of Israel says, 'Let my people go.'"



THEN MOSES WENT TO THE KING OF EGYPT.

To this the king made answer: "Who is this God of Israel that I should obey him? I do not know him and I will not let your people go."

Because the king would not obey God and let them go, God punished him and the people of Egypt in many ways until at last the king gladly let them depart.

From Egypt the children of Israel marched by day and by night until they reached the Red Sea.

After they had gone the king was sorry that he had allowed them to go, for he needed them to build cities for him. With an army he started to overtake them and bring them back again into Egypt.

CROSSING THE RED SEA

When the children of Israel reached the Red Sea, they looked back and saw the king and his army marching after them; and they were afraid. Before them was the sea with no way to cross; behind them, a great army.

They cried out to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have brought us here to die?" And they complained bitterly.

Moses said unto the people, "Fear not, for God will fight for you."

MOSES, THE FREER OF HIS PEOPLE 21

God said to Moses, "Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea, and the children of Israel shall cross over upon dry land."

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. And God caused a strong east wind to blow, which divided the waters and made a path through the midst of the sea. The children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry land and the army of Egypt went in after them. When his own people had crossed, Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the waters returned and covered the men of the army of Egypt and not one of them escaped.

When the children of Israel saw this they feared God and believed in him and believed also in Moses, whom God had sent to set them free.

THE GOLDEN CALF

Then Moses led the people onward toward the land which God had promised should be theirs. In the third month they came to a mountain called Sinai. There God called Moses to the top of the mountain. God told him many laws to give to the people and gave him two tables

of stone. On these the ten great laws or ten commandments were written.

Moses was upon the mountain forty days and forty nights. During this time, the people said to the brother of Moses, "Make us gods to lead us, for we know not what has become of Moses." The brother of Moses made a golden calf, and the people worshiped it.

When Moses came down from the mountain and saw the people dancing about the calf, he was so angry that he cast the tables of stone from his hands and broke them. He took the calf and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and put it in water and made the children of Israel drink of the water.

God also was angry with the people, but at last, because he loved Moses, he called him again up into the mountain. He took with him two tables of stone, and God gave him again the ten commandments and he brought them again to the people.

WATER FROM THE ROCK

Then the people marched onward. But often they complained because they did not come to the

good land that they thought they would find. Once they could find no water to drink, and again they began to complain bitterly.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take your rod and call the people together before this great rock. Then speak to the rock and it shall give forth water."

Moses called the people together before the rock and said, "Listen now, you who complain. Shall I bring you forth water from this rock?"

Speaking thus, he struck the rock twice with his rod. Enough water came forth for all the people to drink and to give their cattle to drink.

God was not pleased with Moses for striking the rock. He had not done as he had been told to do. As a punishment, God said that Moses should not enter the land that had been promised to the people of Israel.

After this, Moses led the children of Israel many years. Because the people often forgot God, they were not allowed to reach the promised land. But after the death of Moses the children of those who had come up out of Egypt reached the land.



HE STRUCK THE ROCK TWICE WITH HIS ROD.

DEATH AND BURIAL OF MOSES

When Moses was a hundred and twenty years old, God said to him, "Go up into Mount Nebo and I will show you the land which I shall give unto the children of Israel, but you yourself shall not enter the land."

Moses went up into the mountain and looked forth and saw the promised land which for forty years he and his people had been seeking but had not found because of the sins of the people.

After having looked upon the land, Moses, the servant of God, died there upon Mount Nebo. God buried him there by the mountain, but no man knows where his grave is even unto this day.

DAVID, THE SHEPHERD BOY WHO BECAME KING

THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

AFTER they reached the promised land the children of Israel for a long time had no one to rule over them. At last they thought they should like to have a king as the other nations had. They asked Samuel, who was a wise man and a prophet, to choose a king for them. And he chose Saul as their king.

At first Saul ruled wisely, but later he did wrong. On account of Saul's sins, God was displeased with him and was not going to allow him to be king much longer. God told Samuel to go to the home of a man named Jesse, who had eight sons, there to find the one who was to be the new king.

DAVID, THE NEW KING

The youngest son of Jesse was David, a shepherd boy who tended his father's sheep out on

SHEPHERD BOY WHO BECAME KING 27

the hills. Living out of doors so much, he was strong and in good health. When a lion or



THE YOUNGEST SON OF JESSE WAS DAVID, A SHEPHERD BOY.

bear would come and steal a lamb, David would follow and kill the wild animal and save the little lamb. He was not afraid of anything, but he was

gentle and kind and loved all of God's creatures and this beautiful world which God has made.



SAMUEL TOOK OIL AND POURED IT ON HIS HEAD.

When he became a man he wrote many poems, or psalms, in which he praised God. One of these is called the Shepherd Psalm, because it starts,

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." It tells how God takes care of his children just as a good shepherd watches his sheep and leads them to the best and safest places.

When Samuel came to the home of Jesse, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel, but Samuel said, "God has not chosen any of these." Then Jesse sent for David, who was out with the sheep. When David came, Samuel took the oil and poured it upon his head. In such a manner one was made king in those days.

DAVID PLAYS FOR SAUL

King Saul was not happy. He knew he had done wrong and that God was angry with him; and, therefore, he was troubled greatly.

Then his servants said to him, "Let us bring to you one who can play upon the harp, and it may be that when he plays you will become well."

"Find such a man," said Saul, "and bring him to me."

The servants sent to David; and David, who could play beautifully upon the harp, came to Saul. Every time Saul was troubled, David

played for him; hearing David's music the king would forget his sins and feel better. All this time Saul did not know that David was to be king in his place.

DAVID KILLS A GIANT

A war was going on at that time. The people who were fighting King Saul and his army were called Philistines. Their leader was a large strong man named Goliath, who was so large and tall that he seemed more like a giant than a man. He was dressed in heavy brass armor and carried a large iron spear, which made him look very dreadful.

Every day he would come towards Saul's army and cry out: "Choose you a man and let him come and fight with me. If he be able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I kill him, then you shall be our servants." For forty days he came and terrified Saul's army.

Now David's three oldest brothers were in Saul's army, and one day David's father sent him to his brothers with some things to eat. Just

as David came up to his brothers in the army, the giant came out as before.

When David heard him and understood the matter, he went to the king and begged to be allowed to fight with Goliath.

Saul said, however, "You are not able to fight with this man, for you are but a boy."

Then David told Saul how he had killed a lion and a bear that had tried to steal his father's sheep. At last the king told him to go, and the king put armor on him and gave him a sword.

Since David could not move about very well in the heavy armor and did not know how to use the sword, he took off these things. He went to the brook and gathered five smooth stones. Taking these and his sling, he started out to meet Goliath.

When Goliath saw David coming, just a red-cheeked boy with a staff in his hand, he laughed and mocked at him. David ran toward him with a stone in his sling, and threw it. The stone hit the Philistine on the forehead. He fell. David ran up. Taking the giant's own sword, he cut off Goliath's head.

When the Philistines saw that their leader was killed, they fled. The people all praised



HE WENT TO THE BROOK AND GATHERED FIVE SMOOTH STONES.

David very highly and made up a song about him. But the king did not like it that the people

praised David, and from that time he hated David and wished to kill him.

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

One day when David was playing on the harp for him, Saul suddenly threw a spear at David; but David stepped aside and was not hurt. A little later Saul threw his spear again, but again he missed David.

Saul then thought of some other way to get rid of David. He sent him out to war at the head of an army. He thought David would be killed. Instead of getting killed, David won the battle, and the people praised him more than ever.

DAVID'S FRIEND JONATHAN

Although Saul hated David, his son Jonathan did not. Jonathan loved David better than anybody else in the world, and it pleased him to hear the people praise David. He was glad that David would be the next king instead of him. It made Jonathan very sad when he learned that his father wanted to kill his dear friend, and

he reminded Saul of how David had helped him in the war. Then Saul promised not to kill David. For a while David lived with the king, and he and Jonathan were very happy together.

Soon Saul again tried to kill David and David fled. Some time later he and Jonathan met and Jonathan wanted him to come and live with the king, but David knew that it was not safe to do so. The two friends bade each other good-by, and both wept. And at last David arose and fled from the country.

For a long time David went from place to place, hiding from Saul, who followed after him to kill him.

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

Once Saul entered a cave where David and a few friends were hiding, without knowing they were there. David crept up very quietly and cut off part of Saul's robe.

As Saul went from the cave, David came after him, crying out, "My lord the king!"

When Saul looked back David bowed to the earth and he said to Saul: "Why do you believe

those who say I seek to do you harm? This day you were in my hands, and some wanted me to kill you, but I spared you. See, here is part of your robe which I cut off, and I did not kill you. I have done you no harm, yet you hunt after my life to take it."

Saul wept and said, "You are better than I, for you have given good for evil." Leaving David unharmed, Saul went home.

Still David was afraid to return; he went into the land of the Philistines and lived there.

SAUL AND JONATHAN KILLED

A few years later there was a great battle between the people of Israel and the Philistines. In this battle both Saul and Jonathan were killed. Now David became king of all the country. But David was sad when he heard of their death, and mourned for them. He said: "I am sad for thee, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, more than the love of woman."

Jonathan had left a son who was lame. When David became king he gave to Jonathan's son all

the land that had been Saul's, and he had him eat at his table as if he had been David's own son.

ABSALOM TRIES TO BE KING

David had a son Absalom who was noted for his beauty, especially for his long, beautiful hair. In David's old age this son tried to make himself king.

David did not like to fight against his own son, but he had to. He said, however, that no one should kill Absalom.

A battle was fought in which Absalom and his men lost. After the battle Absalom was riding through the woods to escape, and his head caught in a tree and he was left hanging there as his horse went out from under him. The leader of David's army came by; and, in spite of what David had said, he killed Absalom.

When David heard of his son's death, he forgave him and wept and said: "O my son Absalom! would I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

DAVID DIES

David was thirty years old when he began to rule and he ruled for forty years. He was a great fighter and he made his kingdom much larger by his wars, and he was a great king in every way. He sometimes did wrong, but when he did he was always sorry for what he had done.

When David was about to die he made his son Solomon king. Then he called Solomon to him and said: "I am going the way of all men. Be strong and show yourself a man. God is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you. Walk in his ways and keep his commandments."

David died, and his son Solomon sat upon his throne.

ULYSSES, A STORY OF PATIENCE

HOW THE TROJAN WAR STARTED

HELEN, the wife of one of the Greek kings in the long ago days, was the most beautiful woman of Greece. Many princes had tried to win her for a wife. They had each made a promise to be a friend to the one who should marry her and to fight for him if any one should try to take her from him by force. For a time all went well and Helen and her husband lived happily together.

It happened, however, that Paris, a prince of Troy, came to visit Helen's husband. A goddess had promised Paris that he should have the most beautiful woman in the world for his wife. When he saw Helen he thought she must be the woman whom the goddess meant. At once he tried to get her to go with him. At last Helen agreed to leave her husband and go with Paris to Troy.

The kings of Greece were true to their promise and got ready nearly twelve hundred ships to go and bring her back.

ULYSSES PLOWS THE SEASHORE

Ulysses of the island of Ithaca had been one of these princes. After failing to win Helen, Ulysses had married Penelope and they had had one child, a baby boy.

When the war started Ulysses did not want to leave his wife and his little son. To

be allowed to stay at home, he tried to make the other princes believe that he had become mad.



HELEN WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN OF GREECE.

Hitching a horse and an ox to a plow, he went to the sea and began plowing the sandy seashore.

One of the princes wisely said: "We shall see if he is truly mad. Let us get his little son and lay him in the furrow. If he is mad, he will drive on; but if he is pretending, he will turn the team aside."

When Ulysses saw the child whom he loved lying in the way of the team, he turned the team aside. They knew then that he was pretending, and they made him leave his dear wife and child and go to the war.

THE WOODEN HORSE

The war lasted ten years and it was by a plan of Ulysses that Troy was at last taken.

He had the Greeks build a large wooden horse. In this a hundred brave men hid. Then a Greek pretended to desert his own people for the men of Troy. He made them believe that, if they would bring the horse into the city, it would bring them good luck and they would win in the war. They believed him and dragged the horse within the walls.

In the night the Greeks left their hiding place and opened the gates of the city to the rest of the Greeks. The city was burned and Helen was carried back to Greece. But on the way home many of the Greeks met with hardships and death. The ships of Ulysses were driven to strange lands and many long years passed before he again reached Ithaca.

ULYSSES AND THE ONE-EYED GIANT

Ulysses came to a land where lived a race of one-eyed giants. One of the fiercest of these giants was Polyphemus. The Greeks came to his cave and, being hungry, went in to see if they could find something to eat. They found some cheese and ate it. Then they very foolishly waited for the giant to come home.

No Greek would ever think of treating badly a stranger who had come to him. Naturally, they thought that the giant would give them gifts as the Greeks always did to a stranger.

In the evening the giant came home, driving his sheep and goats. He drove them into the cave and set a large stone in the mouth of the

cave. At first he did not see Ulysses and his men. After he had milked his flock, he caught sight of the men. Catching two of them, he ate them for his supper. Again at morn and the next evening he ate two of Ulysses' men.

Ulysses could have killed the sleeping giant that night, but he thought, What would be the use? The stone at the door was so large that they could not move it, and they would have had to starve in the cave.

At last Ulysses thought of a plan. He had wine with him and he gave some of it to Polyphemus. This pleased the giant. He asked Ulysses his name and promised if Ulysses would give him more wine that he would give Ulysses a gift.

Ulysses gave him more wine. "My name is Noman," said Ulysses; "what gift will you give me?"

"This gift, that I shall eat you last of all," answered the giant.

Soon the wine made the giant fall asleep. Then Ulysses and his men took a pole of wood and held the one end in the fire until it was burning.

Then they thrust it into the eye of the giant. He raised a great cry and other giants came to the mouth of the cave.

"What ails you, Polyphemus?" they asked.

"Noman is killing me," cried the giant.

"If no man is killing you, why do you yell so, fool?" they answered, and went away.

When it was morning Polyphemus felt his way to the mouth of the cave. He took away the stone and sat in the door of the cave with his arms outstretched to catch any of the Greeks who should try to go forth.

But Ulysses tied his men under the breasts of the rams, and he himself caught hold of the back of a large ram and curled himself under it. In this way they got out of the cave, for the giant felt along the backs of the sheep as they passed and did not think of the men being under the breasts of the rams.

THE BAG OF WINDS

Next Ulysses and his men came to a floating island where lived the ruler of the winds. After staying there a month they set sail. Before

they left, the king killed an ox and made a large bag out of the skin. He put all the winds in the bag but one which was to take Ulysses home. This bag he gave to Ulysses. The wind blew them swiftly on their way and on the tenth day they came in sight of their native land.

All along the men had wanted to know what was in this large bag which the king had given Ulysses. When Ulysses was not watching they opened the bag. All the winds came forth and the ships were driven back again to the island.

The men wanted the king of the winds to help them once more, but he refused.

OTHER ADVENTURES OF ULYSSES

Ulysses and his men had many other adventures. They came to an island where lived giants that ate men. These threw great rocks at the ships and destroyed all the ships but the one in which Ulysses sailed. The giants ate the men of the lost ships.

On another island twenty-two of Ulysses' men were changed into swine by a wicked goddess, but Ulysses made her change them into

men again. She then treated them well and gave them meat to eat and wine to drink.

When Ulysses left, the goddess said to him: "You will come next to the sirens, who bewitch all men. Whoever draws near and hears their singing never sees his wife and babes again. But if you wish to hear them, have your men bind you to the mast. First put wax in the ears of your men that they hear not the sirens."

Ulysses did so, and heard the sirens singing and wanted his men to unbind him; but they, being unable to hear him, rowed on.

The goddess had told Ulysses that he would come to an island where there were sacred oxen. She told him great evil would befall him if they killed any of the oxen. When they came to the island, Ulysses did not want to stop, but his men did. Before leaving the ship the men took an oath not to kill any of the oxen.

The wind blew for a month so that they were afraid to set sail. At last they had no food left. Then while Ulysses was sleeping, the men killed some of the sacred oxen and roasted the flesh and ate it. When at last they sailed away, the

greatest of the gods sent lightning and destroyed the ship. Every man but Ulysses was drowned in the sea.

Ulysses was cast on an island where lived another goddess. She kept him there for seven



ULYSSES WAS CAST ON AN ISLAND.

years. She told him she would make him live forever if he would stay with her. But Ulysses loved his wife and son too well to stay, and he said he would rather go home to them. At last the greatest of the gods said she should let Ulysses go.

Ulysses built a raft and left the island. A storm arose and the raft parted, but Ulysses was again cast on shore.

The people of this island were famous sailors and they, at their king's bidding, carried Ulysses to his own land of Ithaca.

PENELOPE'S WOOERS

By this time all the people of Ithaca had given up Ulysses as dead, all but his faithful wife Penelope, who still hoped for his return. Many princes had come to woo her and remained eating the flocks and drinking the wine of Ulysses.

To put them off Penelope asked them to wait until she should finish a robe she was weaving. Each night she would ravel out what she had woven during the day. Thus she made them wait three years.

At last because one of her maids told the princes, Penelope was forced to finish the cloth. Still she put them off, hoping for the return of her husband.

ULYSSES REACHES HOME

Ulysses, dressed as a beggar, went to the man who had been the keeper of his swine. Although the swineherd did not know his old master, he treated the beggar kindly. There Ulysses learned about the wooers.

Ulysses' son came to the hut of the swineherd



HE BENT THE GREAT BOW AND SHOT THE ARROW THROUGH
THE AXES.

and Ulysses made himself known to him. Together they planned to punish the wooers.

The next day, still dressed as a beggar, Ulysses went to his own palace. Before the stables lay the hound which Ulysses had trained before he left for Troy. The old dog knew his master and wagged his tail and dropped his ears but was too feeble to come to him.

Ulysses entered the palace, where he was insulted by one of the wooers. He waited his time, however, without replying then.

THE BENDING OF THE BOW

This night it had come to Penelope's mind to make this offer. She said to the wooers: "I will set forth the bow of Ulysses and set up twelve axes. Whoever shall most easily string the bow and shoot through all twelve axes, him will I marry and go with him from this house."

The wooers tried, but not one could bend the bow.

Then Ulysses asked to try it. The wooers laughed at the beggar, as they thought he was, but, to their surprise, he bent the great bow and

shot the arrow through the axes. Then he took another arrow and shot the wooer who had insulted him. With his son and two servants, he fought until all the wooers were killed.

Ulysses now made himself known to his wife Penelope. After twenty years of patient waiting, they wept all night for joy at being together again. And Ulysses was king of Ithaca once more and had peace and rest after his long wanderings.

ALEXANDER, WHO CONQUERED THE WORLD

A BOY WHO LIKED TO READ ABOUT ULYSSES

THERE was once a boy who liked to read about Ulysses and about the war caused by the stealing of Helen. His home was north of Greece. He could read the stories easily for they were written in his own language. He liked most of all to read about the battles at Troy. Achilles was his favorite hero, for he was the swiftest, strongest, and bravest of all who fought in that war.

This boy's name was Alexander, and he was the son of a great king named Philip. Although he was a king's son, he was brought up to work. The boy was trained so as to become strong and able to put up with all kinds of hardship. He grew up to be quick and active and good at outdoor games.

King Philip was a great fighter and won many battles. This made the people glad, all but

Alexander. He would look sad when he heard about one of these battles. He said to his boy friends, "My father will leave no countries for me to conquer."

ALEXANDER AND HIS TEACHER

When Alexander was about thirteen years old he was placed under the greatest of all Greek teachers. When the boy was born, Philip had written a letter to this wise man. In it he said he thanked the gods that his son was born while the great teacher was still living.

This teacher did much for the boy. He cured him of many faults and taught him many things. The teacher liked to talk about plants and animals, and Alexander liked to hear about them. The prince loved his teacher and never forgot him.

The boy's teacher gave him a beautiful book with the stories of Ulysses and the other Greek heroes in it. Long after, when the boy himself became a great fighter like Achilles, he carried the book with him in all his wars. When he became king he had men gather many strange plants and animals for his old teacher to study.

RIDING A WILD HORSE

When Alexander was still a boy, some one sent a horse to Philip as a present. This horse was



ALEXANDER WAS PLACED UNDER THE GREATEST OF GREEK
TEACHERS.

so wild and pranced about so, that every one was afraid to get on him. Alexander went to his

father and said, "Let me try to ride him." The king at first refused for he was afraid the boy would be killed, but at last he allowed him to try.

Alexander was not afraid and walked up to the horse and took him by the bridle. Then he patted him and turned him so that he could not see his shadow, for he had seen that the horse was afraid of his own shadow. Then suddenly the boy leaped to the horse's back. Away went the horse at the top of his speed, but Alexander did not try to stop him. After a long run the horse became quiet and Alexander led him back to the king.

Philip was proud of his son and said, "My kingdom is too small for you; you will have to make a larger one for yourself." This he afterwards did.

The horse became gentle, and Alexander taught him to kneel upon his fore legs so that his master could get on him more easily. He kept him a long time and often rode him into battle.

The young leader on his high-spirited horse made the soldiers feel that it was a great thing to follow such a king.

THE BOY GENERAL AND KING

When Alexander was eighteen years old, Philip allowed him to lead a part of his army. A great battle was fought and the boy did so well that Philip was afraid the people would think the son a better fighter than the father.

When Alexander was not yet twenty, his father was killed and Alexander became king. He made a speech to the people. He said they would find that they had the same king, only that his name had been changed. He meant he would be as good a king as his father had been.

Some of the states of Greece tried now to free themselves. They did not like to be ruled by a boy of that age. Alexander started down through Greece, saying, "They say I am a boy. I am coming to teach them that I am a man." And he did.

AT TROY

Now Alexander got ready to make a march through Asia. He had long thought of doing this. He got ready an army of 35,000 men and set out. The army reached Asia and began to

leave the ships. Alexander himself went on in a ship to a place a little farther south, and went on shore.

There was the plain he had longed to see ever since he could read. For on this plain were what he thought to be the ruins of Troy. We now know that the ruins he saw were those of a later city, built on the same spot.

He now stood where Achilles and Ulysses and others had fought those long ten years, and as he looked about he saw again in his mind those heroes doing their brave deeds. It is said he wished that he could have as great a poet to tell about his deeds as Achilles had had to tell of his.

CUTTING THE GORDIAN KNOT

In a certain temple in Asia there was a cart and a yoke kept as sacred. The yoke was tied to the pole of the cart by a strip of leather in such a way that no one had ever been able to untie it. It was called the Gordian Knot. It was said that whoever should untie it should become king of all Asia.

Alexander went to the temple and looked at the

knot. Since he saw that it could not be untied, he drew his sword and cut it to pieces. From



HE DREW HIS SWORD AND CUT IT TO PIECES.

that time such a way of getting out of a difficulty has been called "cutting the Gordian Knot."

Alexander did become king of a great part of Asia. On his march he won every battle that he fought.

TRUSTING THE DOCTOR

One day while he was tired and hot, Alexander foolishly went into a river to bathe. He had a chill and was taken out of the river shivering. He then fainted. A fever came on which lasted a long time.

While he lay sick some one wrote to him that his doctor had been hired to give him poison instead of medicine. Alexander told no one about the letter. When the doctor came in with some medicine, Alexander took the cup and handed the doctor the letter, telling him to read it.

As soon as the doctor finished reading it, and before he could speak, Alexander drank the medicine without a word.

Whether he could tell by the doctor's face that the letter was not true or whether he had so much faith in his doctor that he wished to prove his trust, we do not know. The doctor was, however, greatly pleased. Alexander after a time became well again.

CONQUERS THE WORLD BUT DIES

As Alexander kept on fighting he became more cruel and was no longer a good king. He did many foolish things, one of which was that he tried to make his soldiers think him a god.

One thing he did, however, that was not foolish. He went to Egypt and built a city there at the mouth of the Nile River. He called it Alexandria, after himself. It became a great city, and it is still a great city after two thousand years.

By the time he was twenty-six Alexander had finished his wars. It is sometimes said that he conquered the world and sighed because there were no more worlds to conquer. He did rule over more countries than any one had ever ruled over before, but there were some lands left which he was planning to take, when he died. There were some lands, too, that he had never even heard of.

At last when he was thirty-two years old he became sick with a fever. Some say drinking caused it. He tried hard to rouse himself, but

he soon saw that he must die. Just before his death his soldiers all passed one by one by his bed. He could not speak to say farewell to them. He died and his body was carried to Alexandria, a thousand miles away, to be buried. As far as this was, his body was carried all the way through his own kingdom.

TWO STORIES OF ROME

HOW HORATIUS KEPT THE BRIDGE

A CERTAIN king had come with a large army to take Rome. There were walls on three sides of the city and a river on the fourth. On this river was a wooden bridge. Beyond the bridge was a hill on which some Roman soldiers had been placed to keep away the enemy. But they were too few to do this. The king's men climbed the hill and then came running toward the bridge to cross into Rome.

There was only one way to save Rome and that was to cut down the bridge. But there was not time to do this before the enemy would reach it.

Then brave Horatius said, "Hew down the bridge. I, with two more to help me, will keep back the enemy. Who will stand with me and hold the bridge?"

Two others quickly joined him. With swords in hand, they placed themselves at the farther

end of the bridge to hold back the whole army of the king until their friends could cut down the



I, WITH TWO MORE TO HELP ME, WILL KEEP BACK THE ENEMY.
bridge. As the place was narrow the enemy could not get past them.

At last those who had been cutting at the bridge cried, "Come back; it is about to fall."

Horatius told the others to go and they got back in safety. But he himself stayed and kept back the enemy until with a crash the bridge fell into the river.

Then Horatius turned and, armed as he was, leaped into the river and swam across to his friends. The enemy threw their spears at him, but he escaped and was not hurt.

Thus Rome was saved.

CINCINNATUS

War was going on at Rome. When the Roman army marched out, the enemy pretended to run away. The Romans followed and were led into a narrow valley with steep hills on each side. Then the enemy filled each end of the valley with their men and had the Romans in a trap. They would soon starve if no help came. But five men had escaped and they came to Rome with the news.

The old men said, "There is only one man who can save us. That man is Cincinnatus." In Rome in times of great danger all power was given

to one man. This man was called a Dictator. Cincinnatus was made Dictator.



CINCINNATUS WAS A FARMER.

Cincinnatus was a farmer and when the men came to tell him that he should take the leadership of the Romans, they found him plowing his

fields across the river from Rome. They told him to change his clothes and they read the order making him Dictator. They told him of the danger in which the Roman army stood.

Before daylight next morning Cincinnatus came into Rome. He told every man to come at sunset with twelve strong stakes.

About twelve o'clock that night Cincinnatus and his men reached the place where the other army was. He formed his men in a circle. Then they gave a great shout. The enemy were alarmed, but the Romans in the valley were glad. They knew it was the shout of their friends who had come to help them. Cincinnatus had his men set up the stakes in a circle around the hills and pile earth up against the stakes. This made a tight fence to shut in the enemy. When morning came, the enemy were glad to escape with their lives after giving up their arms.

There was great joy in Rome when Cincinnatus returned. He might have remained Dictator a long time; but, after waiting two weeks until he saw that the city was free from danger, Cincinnatus went back to his plowing.

WILLIAM TELL

THE SWISS HERO

PEOPLE who live in the mountains are strong and brave and do not like to be ruled by other people. It is hard to conquer them, for in the narrow passes a few men can hold back a great army. For these reasons, these countries are the homes of free men. The little country of Switzerland is such a country.

The Swiss were not always free. More than 600 years ago they were ruled by the Austrians. But at last they set themselves free, and in after years they said that it was William Tell who freed them. Many things are told about him, but we cannot be sure that they are true.

Tell, it is said, was a man of great beauty and of great strength. He was a head taller than most of his friends and he could carry twice as much wood on his shoulders as any of them. No one could row a boat so well or shoot so well with

a bow and arrow. He married the prettiest girl in the place where he lived and they had a number of children. The oldest child was Walter.

A RULER'S CRUEL DEED

One evening Tell and his wife were sitting in front of their cottage. They saw an old man coming who was one of their friends. He was being led by his granddaughter.

Tell ran to him, not knowing what to think, for the old man had been well when Tell last saw him. To his horror Tell found that his friend was blind. His eyes had been put out with hot irons.

"Who has done this dreadful thing?" cried Tell.

The old man sat down and told them how he had lost his eyes.

That morning as he and his son were getting ready to go to the market, a soldier had come and ordered them to unyoke the oxen so that he could take the oxen away. Arnold, the old man's son, became angry and struck the soldier. The soldier left and the old man then coaxed Arnold to hide



HE WAS BEING LED BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER.

himself in the mountains. A little later more soldiers came and took the old man before Gessler, the cruel ruler of the country. Gessler ordered him to tell where his son was, and as he would not do this, Gessler ordered the old man's eyes to be put out.

After hearing this story Tell left his home and met a few of his friends. These few men promised to stir up the others to fight for their freedom. Raising their hands toward heaven, they took an oath to die if it should be necessary in order to free their country.

THE CAP ON THE POLE

Gessler felt that something was wrong. Fearing that some of the people were planning to free their country, he thought out a way to find out who they were.

He had the soldiers put up a long pole and place on the end of it a beautiful cap such as the duke of Austria wore. He then gave an order that all who came near this pole should bow their heads to the cap.

When Tell came back home he saw this cap on

the end of the pole and did not know what to think. He stood leaning on his bow, watching



HE SAW THE CAP ON THE POLE.

the soldiers walking around the pole. He saw some people passing and bowing their heads, but he held his own head erect.

At last a soldier noticed that Tell held his head high. He went to Tell, took his bows and arrows from him, and led him to Gessler.

SHOOTING AN APPLE

When Gessler heard that William Tell had not obeyed his order, he at once thought of a very cruel plan to punish him. He sent for Tell's son Walter.

When Walter and his father were brought to him, Gessler said to Tell: "I have heard much about your skill with the bow. Now we shall see it for ourselves. Your son will be placed a hundred yards away, with an apple upon his head. You will be given your bow and an arrow. If you hit the apple and carry it away with your arrow, you and your son shall be set free."

"What if I refuse to shoot?" asked Tell.

"Then your son shall be killed before your eyes," answered the heartless Gessler.

Tell begged Gessler not to force him to do this, for he was afraid the arrow might strike too low and kill his son. Walter, however, was not afraid, for he had often seen his father shoot and

had never known him to miss. Seeing Gessler's mind was made up, Tell at last said he would try.



TELL HID AN ARROW IN THE BROAD
BELT HE WORE.

The soldiers measured off a hundred yards. Walter was placed with his back to a tree and an apple on his bare head. The people and the soldiers stood around. Tell's bow was brought and he was given an arrow.

Tell tried the point of the arrow and then broke it. Other arrows were brought. Taking

a long time to choose one, Tell, without being observed by any one, hid an arrow in the broad belt

he wore. Finding an arrow that suited him, he got ready for the shot.

Still he waited; for the fear of killing his son made him weak. At last he roused himself, slowly drew the bow, took aim with great care . . . shot . . . and struck the apple so that it was carried away by the arrow.

The people cried out with joy and wonder at such a shot, and Gessler could scarcely believe his own eyes. Walter ran to his father. Tell fell down in a faint.

As Tell fell, the arrow he had hidden dropped out of his belt. When Tell arose, Gessler pointed to the arrow and asked why he had taken it. "To kill you, tyrant," answered Tell, "if I had killed my son."

Gessler did not keep his promise to set Tell free but placed him in iron chains and put him in the fort with the soldiers. Walter was set free and at once set out to tell his father's friends not to wait but to rise now against the cruel ruler.

HOW TELL GOT FREE

Because Gessler was afraid the people would try to set Tell free, he got ready a large boat and

thirty men to take Tell across the lake to a prison about ten miles away. Tell, still in chains, was put into the boat and rowed away from the town. As Tell lay in the boat, he saw a light near his own home. He knew that it was a signal to arouse the people in other places, but Gessler thought that it was a burning house.

After they had rowed some time, a great storm arose. The wind raged, and great waves dashed against the boat. The soldiers thought that they would all be lost, and began to pray. It grew dark. The boat drifted toward the rocky shore. Gessler offered great rewards to any one who could save him.

One of the soldiers who had heard that Tell could row as well as he could shoot, spoke to Gessler. Gessler, willing to do anything rather than die, asked Tell if he could help them.

"With God's help I can," answered Tell.

His chains were taken off, and he was put to guide the boat. By keeping watch on the signal light, which he could still see, Tell was able to discern which way to go. But he did not guide the boat to where Gessler wished to take him.

When it was nearly morning Tell brought the boat close to the rocky shore, seized his bow, and, giving a great leap, reached shore and was soon out of sight.

Tell then hid himself by the side of the road. Soon Gessler and the soldiers came by. Tell heard Gessler say that he would have Tell and his whole family put to death. At that Tell stepped forth from the place where he had been hiding and sent an arrow through Gessler's heart.

Soon afterwards a great battle was fought. The Swiss won the battle and set themselves free. They have been free ever since.

ROLAND AND OLIVER

THE BIRTH OF ROLAND

MORE than 1100 years ago the greatest living king was Charles the Great, the famous king of the Franks. He ruled over a large part of Europe. He was a wise ruler, but he had one fault. He liked to have his own way in everything.

Charles had a sister whom he loved dearly. Because she married a man whom Charles did not want her to marry, the great king said she and her husband must leave his kingdom. They went from place to place as beggars, and at last made their home for a time in a cave near a town in Italy.

While they lived in the cave a son was born to them. This son was the famous Roland. Many stories have been told and songs sung about him both in France and Italy. A song about Roland was sung by the French soldiers in their

battles years after Roland's death. We do not know just how much truth there is in these stories and songs.

While Roland was but a child, his father went to another country and left the boy and his mother to make their living as best they could.

HOW A FIGHT ENDED

Roland was well liked by the boys of the town near his cave. He was their leader in their sports. There was one boy, the son of the ruler of the town, who did not like him. This boy's name was Oliver.

One day they decided in boy fashion to fight it out. It was a long hard fight. At last Roland won. Then what do you think happened? The two boys became the greatest of friends. They vowed always to be friends as long as they lived.

THE KING'S DINNER STOLEN

Some time later the great king Charles passed through the town, and he and his knights ate dinner on the village green.

Times were hard then. Roland was not old

enough to earn a living for himself and his mother. Often they were nearly starved.

It happened this day that Roland saw some persons carrying rich food to the king. The starving boy was overcome by the sight of the food. Hardly knowing what he was doing, he seized the food and ran with it to his cave.

The servants came to the king and told him. Charles turned to three of his knights and said, "Go, find the lad and bring him to me."

The knights came to the cave. After Roland's mother found that they came from Charles she told them that she was Charles's sister.

When Roland was brought before him, the old king liked the lad so well that he took him and his mother back to France. From that time on, Roland lived with the king. Only one thing he had to be sorry about: that he was parted from his friend Oliver.

CHARLES'S PEERS

There were twelve knights that Charles kept with him all the time. They were the greatest and noblest men in the country. If Charles was

planning to do something, he would ask these twelve peers, as they were called, what they thought of his plan.

When Roland grew to be a man, he was made captain of these peers, and he was next to the king himself in power. Roland was very brave and daring. He was loved by every one of these peers except one. This knight hated Roland and did not like to see him honored so much.

ANOTHER FIGHT WITH A STRANGE ENDING

Once a king had made war against Charles. It was agreed that, instead of a battle between the armies, each side should choose one man and that these should fight. The war was to be decided by the fight between these two. Roland was, of course, chosen to fight for the army of Charles. The leader of the other army chose his grandson. The soldiers of Charles's army almost pitied the stranger, for they felt that no one could be a match for Roland.

On the day appointed, the two sat on their horses, one at either end of the field. Each was clothed in armor from top to toe and each wore a



FOR TWO HOURS THEY FOUGHT.

steel cap on his head. Not even their faces could be seen.

A trumpet sounded. They rushed together. The lance of each struck the shield of the other. Both lances were split into pieces. But neither of the knights was thrown from his horse. Both armies cheered.

Then they leaped from their horses and drew their swords. For two hours they fought and no one could say which was the better. At last Roland ran his sword so deep into the other's shield that he could not draw it out again. Then the stranger struck such a blow upon the breast of Roland that his sword was broken by the blow. With their swords useless, they wrestled.

At last in the fight their faces were uncovered. They looked at each other a second. Both armies were astonished to see them rush into each other's arms. The strange knight was no other than Oliver, Roland's old friend. They refused to fight any more, and the war was settled without a battle. Charles made Oliver one of his twelve peers. Now Roland and Oliver were together again, never to be parted.

Because Roland and Oliver were equal in their great deeds, to this day we use the words "a Roland for an Oliver" to mean tit for tat, or giving as much as one gets. The two knights were not alike, however. Roland was proud and would rush into danger even when he had no need to do so, but Oliver was wiser and more gentle though just as brave.

WAR WITH THE MOORS

In the time of the grandfather of Charles some armies from Asia had come into Europe. These people were not Christians. They believed it was right to kill persons who would refuse to be of their religion. It seemed at one time that they would conquer all Europe, and there would be no Christians nor Christian countries left. But Charles's grandfather beat them in a great battle and kept them out of his country. They still held Spain, however. Those in Spain were called the Moors.

Spain had once been a Christian country. Charles the Great, being a Christian, did not like to see the land ruled by the Moors. He went

with an army into Spain. There for seven years he carried on war. At last the king of the Moors agreed to become a Christian, and to allow Charles to be king over him if Charles would lead his army out of Spain.

Charles asked his twelve peers what they thought should be done. Roland wanted the war to go on. He said it was the duty of Christians to make Spain a Christian land again. But two others said that it was wrong to refuse mercy to a conquered enemy. Charles decided to make peace and asked that some one carry his answer to the king of the Moors. The peer who was Roland's enemy and who had been for peace offered to go. Roland said that he himself would go. They had a quarrel, in which Roland treated the other knight with great scorn. Finally Charles decided that Roland's enemy should go.

THE FALSE KNIGHT

The Moors had heard of the way in which this knight had been treated by Roland, and they tried to get him to betray his people.

At first he refused, but at last he told them how

they could cut off part of Charles's army as it was recrossing the mountains. He said they should send soldiers to hide in the woods and mountains where there was a narrow pass.

The false knight returned to Charles's camp and said that the king of the Moors had agreed to everything. Then Charles started at once for France with the greater part of the army. Roland was left to bring the others.

THE BATTLE IN THE PASS

The Franks under Roland entered the pass. They did not dream that their enemies were near. All at once with loud yells, the Moors sprang up and attacked the Franks from all sides. Oliver, so the story goes, climbed a tree to see how many there were of the enemy.

He called out to Roland: "Brother, the heathen are many and the Christians few. If you sound your horn, King Charles will hear it and come to help us."

The proud Roland, eager to fight, refused. He thought that the Franks could fight their way through. A bishop, who was with them,

had the Franks kneel and confess their sins and receive his blessing.

The Franks fought like heroes but the enemy were too many. At last only about sixty were left, among them, Oliver, Roland, and the bishop.

Roland now said : "I will sound my horn ; Charles will hear it and we may yet return to France."

"Shame upon you !" answered Oliver ; "why did you not sound it when I asked you ? The best soldiers of France are now slain and we must die with them."

The bishop said : "To blow the horn will not save us, but Charles will come and carry our bodies home to our dear France. Therefore it is right to sound it."

Roland obeyed and blew such a blast that the blood spurted from his mouth.

Charles, who was miles away, heard the sound and said : "It is Roland's horn. Our men are being defeated. We must hasten to aid them."

The false knight urged him not to go to their assistance, but Charles turned back.

The fight went on. - At last Oliver was killed

and then the bishop. Only Roland was left. He was bleeding and knew he must soon die. Again with his dying breath he blew a blast from



AGAIN HE BLEW A BLAST FROM HIS HORN.

his horn. Charles heard it and commanded his men to answer it with their horns. The Moors fled at the sound.

Roland knew that he could not live until

Charles came. He took his sword and hacked it and bent it in trying to break it, for he did not want it ever to have an owner who might be a coward. Then he lay down and placed the sword and the horn under his head so that Charles would see that he had not surrendered.

Charles hastened to the spot. There he found Roland and the others lying dead in the pass.

ALFRED THE GREAT AND GOOD

A LONG JOURNEY FOR A LITTLE BOY

MORE than a thousand years ago the king and queen of England had a little son whom they named Alfred. Alfred had two older brothers, but because he was such a good little fellow his parents seemed to love him best. He was only five years old when his mother died. He was very sad. After a while something happened which made him forget his sorrow somewhat. His father sent him on a long journey to the great city of Rome.

In those days when there were no railroads, people had to travel on horseback. As the roads were often bad, it took quite a while to make such a journey.

Of course the prince traveled in fine style with a large number of great men to take care of him. In every town through which they passed, the people cheered for Prince Alfred and treated him

like a king. Everybody liked him and he became quite famous on this trip.

He went to see the pope and the pope anointed his head with oil, as Samuel anointed David, to show that he was to have a part of his father's kingdom some day. Alfred returned home much pleased with the world and more anxious than ever to grow up into a good, honest, brave man.

He made another trip to Rome when he was older. This time his father went with him and they stayed there a year. On this trip the king, Alfred's father, fell in love with the daughter of the king of France; and they were married. She came to England with them; and, for a time, they all lived very happily.

ALFRED AND HIS NEW MOTHER

Alfred liked his new mother for she was only a little older than he was and she was a good comrade. She was a good mother, too, and taught Alfred many things. She answered all his questions and explained many things that he had never understood.

Alfred was fond of poems and liked to hear

them read and to learn them, but he had never learned to read though he was twelve years old. In those days there were no printed books and very few persons could read.

Alfred's new mother had a book of poems written out in a very beautiful manner. One day she showed this book to Alfred and his brothers.

"I will give this to the one who first learns to read it," she said.

The older boys did not care to try, but Alfred found some one to teach him. In a short time he read the poems to her, and she gave him the book. After that Alfred read all the books he could get.

THE COMING OF THE DANES

Alfred's country was troubled a great deal by a heathen people called the Danes. A crowd of them would come in boats and swoop down upon a place and rob and plunder and kill. They even robbed the churches and killed the priests. The English people tried to keep them away but for years they kept on coming.

At last Alfred became king. He made up his mind to try very hard to conquer the Danes. A great many had come by this time, and they did not come for a short time as they had at first done. They meant to make England their home and take it from Alfred's people. They were so many and so warlike that Alfred could not conquer them.

As years passed Alfred's army grew smaller and smaller. At last he had no friends left. He became a poor wanderer, hiding from his enemies as David hid from Saul.

ALFRED LETS THE CAKES BURN

Alfred fled to the west through the woods and wild places. He found his way to the hut of a poor cowherd. The cowherd took him in and gave him food. Here Alfred stayed for some time. He did not tell them that he was the king. He would sit in the hut, thinking of his ill fortune and trying to plan some way to gain his kingdom again.

One evening the cowherd's wife was baking some cakes for their supper. Since she had to

leave the hut for a few minutes, she said to Alfred, "Watch these cakes and mind that you do not let them burn."



HE FOUND HIS WAY TO THE HUT OF A POOR COWHERD.

The king promised, but in a minute or two he fell into thinking of his troubles and forgot all about the cakes.

When the woman came back and saw the cakes smoking, she was angry. "Shame on you!" she cried. "You are willing enough to eat the

cakes when they are baked, but too lazy and good for nothing to watch them and keep them from burning."

Alfred took his scolding with patience, for he knew he deserved it.

SHARING THE LAST LOAF

After some time Alfred was able to get together a few men who were faithful to him. With these he lived on an island in a swamp. Here his enemies could not find him and sometimes he would surprise small parties of Danes by a night attack. Often he and his men were near starving, however.

One cold winter day Alfred and his men had scarcely anything left. His men went fishing and they took their bows and arrows, hoping to kill something for food. Alfred was left alone except for the woman who took care of the house.

As the king sat reading a book, a beggar came to the door and asked for food. Alfred asked the woman to see what they had. She said that there was but one loaf of bread in the house.

The kind-hearted king told her to give half of it to the beggar, and trust to God for help.

That evening the hunting party returned with plenty of fish and game.

ALFRED VISITS THE CAMP OF THE DANES

Some time later some friends of Alfred won a victory over the Danes. But there was still a large army of the Danes left. Before fighting these, Alfred wanted to know just how many there were and what they were planning. He made up his mind to find this out for himself.

In those days men who could play the harp and sing often followed armies. They were given food and money for singing to the soldiers. Alfred, like King David, could play and sing. He dressed himself as a harper and went to the camp of the Danes. They, of course, never dreamed that this was their great enemy.

He played and sang and then begged money from them. Alfred's playing and singing were so fine that their general had him come to his tent so that he might hear the harper. The general

was pleased with the musician's singing, and treated him with great kindness.

When Alfred had found out all that he wanted to know, he went away as if to find some other place to beg and play.

Calling together all his friends, Alfred led them to the camp of the Danes. The Danes were surprised and soon fled. Two weeks later their general, the same one for whom Alfred had sung, surrendered. Alfred treated him well. He allowed his former enemy to rule over a part



HE DRESSED HIMSELF AS A HARPER
AND WENT TO THE CAMP OF THE
DANES.

of England, but made the Dane promise never to fight against the English again. The general be-

came a Christian and was Alfred's friend from that time on.

ALFRED THE GOOD KING

Alfred was now greater than ever. In fact he became the best king England has ever had. After his victory over the Danes he ruled for twenty-three years. He built again the cities which the Danes had burned. He built ships to sail along the coast and keep out the Danes. He did many other things to make England a safe place in which to live.

He made new laws and punished every one who broke them. So well were the laws kept that it is said that golden bracelets could hang by the roadsides and no one would dare to touch them.

Alfred wanted his people to know more than they did. He started schools. One of them became the great school now called Oxford University. The king wrote parts of the Bible in English. He carried a book with him at all times and read whenever he had time. He was a very good man and spent part of every day in prayer.

Alfred was fifty-two years old when he died. Every one was sorry when he heard of Alfred's death, for all loved him. For his part, he had loved his people as a father loves his children. So far as we know, he had never done a cruel or mean thing. England has had many kings, but only Alfred is called "the Great." All writers of history agree that he also deserves to be called Alfred the Good.

KING CANUTE

A BAD KING BECOMES GOOD

MORE than a hundred years after Alfred died, a Dane became king of all England. His name was Canute. Many Danes were now Christians and the king was one. But at first he did not act like a Christian. He had many of his enemies put to death.

There were two boys whom he was afraid the people might some day want to have as kings. These lads he sent to another king and hinted that the other king should have them put to death. But the other king did not do so.

As Canute grew older he became a better Christian and a better king. He built towns and roads and gave money to the churches. He tried to make the people of England his friends. He was sorry that he had been so cruel.

In those days when a man had done something wrong he tried to make it right by going as a

pilgrim to some sacred place. To make amends for his cruelty, Canute, with a staff in his hand



"COME NOT ANY FARTHER," CRIED CANUTE.

and a sack on his back, like a beggar, walked most of the way to Rome and back.

TEACHING FOOLISH MEN A LESSON

A famous story is told of Canute. The men who were at his court were always praising him. They would tell him how great he was and that every one and everything must obey him. Becoming weary of it, the king made up his mind to teach his foolish men a lesson.

One day they had told him that he was lord of the land and sea.

"And will the sea obey me if I command it?" he asked.

The men were afraid that the king would be angry if they said "No." Therefore, they answered, "Yes, O king."

Then the king had them carry his throne to the seashore when the tide was out. The king sat upon the throne and the men stood around him. Soon the tide began to rise. The water of the sea crept up slowly toward the king.

"Come not any farther," cried Canute, "nor dare to wet the feet of thy king." But the sea rose higher and higher.

Turning to his men, who were ashamed of their

foolish talk, he said, "You see there is only One who can say to the sea, 'Thus far and no farther.'"

He had them carry him back from the shore. It is said that he then took off his crown and hung it up in the church and never wore it again.

ROBERT BRUCE

SCOTLAND CONQUERED

MORE than six hundred years ago the king of England tried to make himself king of Scotland also. He did conquer Scotland.

The Scots had a sacred stone on which for hundreds of years their kings had been crowned. They believed that the Scots would rule wherever that stone might be. This stone King Edward of England carried home with him and had it put under the chair in which the kings of England are crowned. There it remains to-day.

The Scots soon rose against Edward. Under William Wallace they set themselves free. For seven years Wallace fought against Edward. At last through a man who he thought was his friend Wallace was taken by the English. He was carried in chains to England and hanged. He was put to death because he loved and fought for his country. The Scots honor him to-day as their greatest hero.

THE SCOTS' NEW LEADER

After Wallace was hanged Edward thought that now he had indeed conquered the Scots. But again it was only a short time until they rose against him. This time their leader was Robert Bruce. Bruce had fought under Wallace, but later he begged pardon of Edward and lived with him in England. Now, however, he made up his mind to free his country.

The story is told that Edward heard what Bruce was planning and meant to have him killed. Meantime a friend sent Bruce a pair of spurs. He took this to mean that he must ride for his life. He had the shoes put on his horse the wrong way so that his enemies would not be able to follow his tracks. He reached Scotland without any one's trying to stop him.

Soon afterwards Bruce was crowned king of Scotland. He was now a king, but a king without a country, for the country was full of men who were his enemies. Some of the Scots were friends of the English king.

Edward now got ready an army to conquer the

Scots again. He made a vow that he would not go home until he had conquered them. He kept his vow in a way he did not dream of, for he died before he reached Scotland. Before he died he said that his men should carry his dead body at the head of the army as it marched into the land of the Scots ; but this was not done.

A LESSON FROM A SPIDER

For a time Bruce, like Alfred, had to hide from his enemies. Sometimes he would fight with small bands of them, but he could not do much toward setting his country free. At last he had to hide on an island.

The story is told that he was about to give up the fight. But as he lay in bed one morning, he saw a spider trying to throw its thread from one beam to another. Six times it tried it and failed.

"I, too, have tried six times and failed," thought Bruce, "if it tries again, so will I."

Again the spider tried ; and this time it did not fail. Bruce returned to Scotland and this time he beat some of his enemies.

TWO NARROW ESCAPES

Many stories are told about Bruce in an old poem. One is that one band of his enemies got a bloodhound that Bruce had once owned, and put him on the trail of the king. Bruce sent all his men away but one. Five swift men of the enemy overtook the king. Three tried to kill him and the other two to kill his friend. Bruce killed one and the other two drew back. Then he killed one of those who were fighting with his friend. The two who had stepped back again came on again. Bruce killed both while his friend killed the fifth one.

The rest of the enemy were not far away. The king was so tired that he said he could not go any farther. If it had not been for his friend now, Scotland would not have been freed. He urged the king to try to go a little farther. They reached a stream of water and waded in it so that the dog could not follow their tracks; in that way they got away from their enemies.

After a short rest the king and his friend went on. Soon they met three men. The men said that they were looking for Robert Bruce.

"Keep on your way and you may soon see him," said the king.



HE URGED THE KING TO TRY TO GO A LITTLE FARTHER.

The men thought, "This is he;" but they did not say so. The king knew what they were

thinking and that they would try to kill him when they saw a good chance.

They went on till they came to a hut. There they all ate supper together and lay down to sleep, the three men at one end of the hut and Bruce and his friend at the other. But Bruce and his friend took turns watching.

At last Bruce waked suddenly to find his friend asleep, too. He saw the three men coming towards him. He gave his friend a kick to wake him, and leaped up sword in hand. The strangers killed his friend, but they met their deaths at Bruce's hands, so skillful was he with the sword.

BRUCE FINDS A FRIEND

Later Bruce came to a hut where lived an old woman. He begged her to give him some food.

"Come in," she said; "I give to every one who asks for the sake of one, for I should be very sad if he asked and I, not knowing him, refused."

"And who is this one?" asked Bruce.

"It is King Robert Bruce, who is now hard pressed by his enemies, poor man," answered the woman.

"I am Robert Bruce," the king replied.

With great happiness at seeing the king of whom she had heard and thought much, she gave him a good meal.

HOW A CASTLE WAS TAKEN

After a time Bruce began to win battles. He had a friend, James Douglas, who won many battles for him. He was called the Black Douglas, because of his dark skin and black hair.

One castle was taken by Bruce's men somewhat as the Greeks took Troy.

The English in the castle had been buying hay for their horses from a Scotch farmer. One day he brought a load of hay, with some Scots hidden under it. The farmer stopped his horse so that the wagon kept the English from shutting the gates. The Scots that were hidden in the hay leaped down and kept back the English until more Scots came. In that way the castle was taken.

BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN

At last in 1314 the great battle of Bannockburn was fought. Before the battle Bruce told his

men that if any one was afraid, he should leave. Not a man left. As it was, Bruce had the smaller army, but they had the better place to stand.



THEN BRUCE WITH HIS AX SPLIT THE HEAD OF THE KNIGHT.

Bruce rode up and down his lines on his pony. An English knight rode out and offered to fight with one of the Scots. Bruce himself rode to meet the knight. From the first thrust of the knight's lance, the king's pony stepped aside, taking his rider out of danger. Then Bruce with his ax split the head of the knight. This success cheered the Scots, though they saw the handle of

the ax break and the force of the blow throw Bruce to the ground.

Some of the leaders in his army told Bruce that he should not have risked his life but should have let some one else fight for him. All he answered was that it was a pity that he had broken his good battle-ax.

King Edward, son of the other Edward, led the English. Before the battle he saw the Scotch soldiers kneel.

"See!" he cried, "they kneel for mercy."

"You are right, Sire," answered one of his generals, "but they kneel to a greater King than you. It is God's mercy they ask. These men mean to win or die."

In the battle that followed, the English were beaten with great loss. They never again tried to conquer the Scots.

Bruce was king for fifteen years after this great battle and when he died his son became king. The Scots remained free. Nearly three hundred years later King James of Scotland became king of England and the two countries have had the same king or queen ever since.

BRUCE'S HEART

Bruce had made a vow that, after Scotland was freed, he would lead an army to the land where Christ had lived. That land was held by a people who were not Christians. In those days it was thought that God would be pleased with any one who fought with them and tried to take this land from them. Bruce did not live to keep his vow. However, before he died he had his friend, the Black Douglas, promise to carry his heart to the Holy Land.

When Bruce died, Douglas had the dead king's heart taken out and put in a silver casket; and, with it, Douglas started for the Holy Land.

On the way, however, he stopped to help in a war against the Moors in Spain. With the casket slung around his neck he rode bravely into the midst of the Moors. But the few Scots who were with him were soon overcome and Douglas himself was killed.

After the battle the king's heart was found. With the body of Douglas it was sent back to Scotland and buried there.

JOAN OF ARC

AN ENGLISH KING IN FRANCE

ONCE an English king was trying to make himself king of France. He claimed the throne because of a promise the French had made to his father. But the French did not want to be ruled by an English king, and they fought to put Charles, a son of their last king, on the throne.

The English had taken city after city. They were trying to take Orleans, the last strong city of the French. After the French had given up all hope, a wonderful thing happened: Orleans was saved and Charles was made king. All this was brought about by a poor peasant girl only seventeen years of age. This girl was Joan of Arc.

JOAN AND HER VISIONS

Joan was the daughter of a poor farmer. She had not been taught to read and write. She worked in the fields, even plowing at times; and

she also watched the sheep. When she had no work she would go to the church and pray. While she worked in the fields, if the church bell rang, she would stop her work and pray. The other girls often laughed at her because she preferred going to church and praying to joining in a song or a dance.

When Joan was between twelve and thirteen years of age she began, so she said, to see visions and to hear the voices of the dead. One summer day a great light shone about her as she was working in the garden ; and a voice told her to be good and trust in the Lord. Again when she was in the meadow watching the sheep, she saw a splendid looking angel and other angels with him. This angel told her that she was to save France and that she must go to help King Charles. Joan, with tears, answered that she could not lead an army. Again she heard voices telling her to go and save France.

Joan had often heard that a certain wise old man had said that a girl should some day save France. As Joan grew up she came to believe that she was the person whom the prophet had meant.

Joan's father thought her foolish. He said he would rather see her drown than go with the army. She did not like to disobey her father but she felt she must obey the angels. When she heard that the English were about to take Orleans, she made up her mind to go at once.

JOAN GOES TO THE KING

Joan went first to her uncle and told him of her visions and the voices. Her own belief was so strong that it made him believe in her. Others whom she met also believed in her. At last Joan set out with her brother and a few other men for the place where Charles was. She was dressed like a soldier, rode a horse, and wore a sword at her side.

Her going was a brave thing to do and an undertaking full of danger. She had to go two hundred and fifty miles through a rough country. At any time she might meet English soldiers. But Joan was not afraid.

"God clears the way for me," she said, "it was for this that I was born."

In eleven days they reached the village where

Charles was. At first people laughed at her, but Joan was so good and pure that every one liked her; and she believed so strongly in her visions and voices that she made every one else believe in them. After three days Charles agreed to see her.

THE KING TESTS JOAN

Charles wished to find out if Joan really could do such things as the people said. He told one of the men with him to dress up in fine clothes; he himself put on plain clothes to receive Joan. There were about three hundred men in the hall. Joan, after looking over them, at once picked out the king. Going to Charles, she fell on her knees before him.

"I am not the king," said Charles and pointed to the man in the splendid clothes.

"You are the king and no other," said Joan. "I am Joan, the maid whom God has sent to aid you. I have come to save Orleans and then take you to Rheims. There you will be crowned king."

After talking to her, Charles began to think that she was, indeed, sent from God. Trusting



THEY GAVE JOAN A HORSE AND A
SUIT OF WHITE ARMOR.

in her inspiration, he allowed her to lead the army.

Another thing that happened made the soldiers have a still greater belief in her. One day a soldier made a rude remark to her. "One who may be near his end should not use such words," answered Joan. That very day the soldier was drowned in trying to cross a river. The people thought her a prophet after

that, and believed whatever she foretold.

They gave Joan a horse and a suit of white armor. She carried a sword, but what she loved most was a white banner that she carried in the midst of all her battles.

ORLEANS SAVED

She hurried on to Orleans ahead of the army and entered the city with two hundred men. The English were all so anxious to see the wonderful girl soldier that they forgot to try to keep her from entering. The women, children, and old men in the city crowded about her to touch her armor or even her horse.

Around Orleans were forts which the English held. The French now took these one by one. Soon all but one of the forts were taken from the English. It was a very strong fort. The generals wanted to wait for more soldiers before trying to take it.

To this plan, Joan objected, saying: "You have been at counsel. So have I. My counsel was with the Lord. Be ready at the break of day and we shall take the fort. But much blood will flow and I shall be wounded."

The next morning she led the French to the fort and was the first to plant a ladder against its walls. She was wounded in the neck and was carried away by some of the French soldiers. From the wound she pulled the arrow with her own hands. First she wept, but then she prayed and bore the pain bravely.

A little later she saw that the French were giving way. Then she mounted her horse and rode toward the walls. She cried out that if her banner once touched the walls the French should enter. The English had thought her killed; and, terrified at the sight of her, they fled. Soon the fort was taken and now Orleans was safe.

The bells of the city were rung all night for joy; and praises to God were sung in the churches.

CHARLES CROWNED

Joan now urged Charles to go on to Rheims. On the way, city after city was taken. On July 15th the French entered Rheims. Joan and Charles rode side by side at the head of the army. Two days later Charles was crowned king.

Joan then threw herself upon her knees and, with tears, said, "O king, now the will of God is done." She begged to go back to her father and mother and keep her sheep again.

The king, however, wanted her to stay with the army.

JOAN PUT TO DEATH

Joan now seemed to have lost her power. She no longer won any battles; and, about a year after Orleans was saved, she was taken prisoner by some friends of the English. By them she was sold to the English.

For six months she was kept in prison and then taken to another city and placed in an iron cage with chains on her limbs. They said that she was a witch and that she had done her great deeds by the help of the Evil One. She was given a trial that lasted a long time. At last the judges said that she must be put to death.

When Joan heard this, she wept bitterly and tore her hair.

If only Charles had allowed her to go home as she had wished, the girl's life would have been

saved. Even now the heartless king did not try to save her from death after all she had done for him.

Joan was burned at the stake and her ashes thrown into the river.

Every one knows now how foolish and how false the things were that they said about her. She had been put to death only because the English hated her for having saved her country and king.

A monument now stands on the spot where she was burned. The French people still honor her and all the world admires her as the greatest heroine of any time or of any land.

HAROUN AL RASCHID

HAROUN AND CHARLES THE GREAT

IN the time of Charles the Great and his wise peers, Roland and Oliver, there was a large country in Asia where lived people of the same religion as the Moors. Their ruler was called a caliph, and the city where the caliphs lived was called Bagdad.

The most famous of the caliphs of Bagdad was Haroun al Raschid. His name means Aaron the Just. Though Charles the Great fought against the same people in Spain, yet he and Haroun were friends. If they had lived near each other, no doubt they would have been enemies. But there was another great country between them whose rulers neither Charles nor Haroun liked.

Haroun sent Charles a wonderful clock. It was not run as our clocks are by a spring that is wound up. This clock was run by water. It pointed out the hours and struck them by the

falling of little balls on a bell. The Franks had never before seen a clock that struck the hours. This clock did more than that. When it struck one, a door opened and a knight came riding forth on a horse; at two o'clock two knights came riding forth; and so on, until at twelve, twelve knights rode forth.

Haroun also sent the Franks another present of something they had never seen before. That present was an elephant.

HAROUN AS A BOY

In spite of the fact that Haroun was ruler of a great people, his mother had been a slave woman. We do not know much about him as a boy. There were good schools in his country, better than in the West, but Haroun was taught at home by a wise old man. One of the things he studied was the book which the people of that religion use as their Bible.

When Haroun was only eighteen he was such a good soldier that his father allowed him to lead an army. Against the country between Charles and Haroun, whose ruler was a woman named

Irene, Haroun carried on a war when he was still a boy. He forced Irene to agree to pay seventy thousand pieces of gold every year to the caliph.

Haroun's older brother was caliph after their father died. He hated Haroun and planned to kill him, but he died before he could carry out his plan.

Haroun then became caliph at the age of twenty-one. He made the son of his old teacher his chief officer. He chose such good men as his officers that his reign was the best his people had ever known.

HAROUN THE RULER

Haroun himself was a scholar and a poet, and he kept scholars and poets at his court. Whenever he built a church he built a school along with it. He had one wise man to give him advice and to tell him when he did something that was wrong.

Haroun was not like many men of his time who punished persons because they were of a different religion from his. His chief officer was not of the same religion as the caliph, and yet for a long time

they loved each other as if they were brothers. Haroun even built a church for the Christians to worship in when they came as pilgrims to the Holy Land.

To gain more knowledge of his people, the caliph often dressed himself so that no one would know him and went about by night, listening to what persons said and asking them questions. He wanted to find out if his officers treated the people justly and whether the people were pleased with his laws. If a person came to him with a complaint, he would hear the person's story. If the man or woman had been treated badly, Haroun would see that the wrong was righted. That is how he got the name of al Raschid, or the Just.

Haroun loved to hear wonderful stories. Any one who came to his court and told some strange tale that was different from any the caliph had every heard, was sure to receive a reward.

The palace of Haroun in Bagdad was more splendid and beautiful than that of any caliph before him. He lived there in great splendor. He had hundreds of slaves to wait upon him,



HAROUN LOVED TO HEAR WONDERFUL STORIES.

and many great men lived all the time in the palace to be his friends and companions.

Though he was less cruel than most rulers of those days, there was one time when the great caliph was very cruel and unjust. That was when he found out that his chief officer, whom he loved so well, had secretly married the caliph's sister. Haroun had his sister, with her husband and his father and brothers, put to death. He even ordered that any one who mourned for this officer should be killed.

HAROUN AND THE ROMAN RULER

The next ruler of the land which Irene had ruled wrote that he would not pay the seventy thousand pieces of gold a year to the caliph. He sent men with a bundle of swords to Haroun as a sign that he would rather fight than pay.

Haroun smiled and drew his own sword. With one stroke of it, he cut all the Roman swords in two. Yet his sword was not made dull. His people had for a long time made the best swords in the world.

He wrote a short letter to the other ruler. It

read: "Haroun al Raschid to the Roman dog. I have read thy letter. Thou shalt not hear, thou shalt see my answer." He meant that he would bring his soldiers and that when the other ruler should see them, he would see Haroun's answer.

He did lead his army into the other country; and he burned the houses and destroyed everything he came to, until the ruler was glad to promise to pay the gold.

A second time the ruler refused to pay and Haroun went into his country and beat him in a great battle. A third time he refused. The caliph now vowed that he would kill that ruler if he ever got his hands on him.

Haroun, however, had long been suffering from a disease; and, as he was marching again to meet the Roman ruler, the great caliph died. It was not many years after his death until, like the kingdom of Alexander, his great country was broken up and its greatness passed away.

MARCO POLO

OVER 600 years ago two brothers named Polo started from Italy and went eastward until at last they reached what is now China. They visited there the king, who was a very great king. A few years later they went again. This time one of the brothers took with him his son, Marco.

Marco was seventeen years old when he started. It took more than three years to get to where the great king lived. The journey was well worth while, for the king liked young Marco, kept him at the court twenty years, and made him an officer. Marco carried messages for the king to all parts of the country, and saw many strange things.

Marco's father was now getting old and wanted to go home to die. They went back, therefore, to Italy. Before they left, the king gave them gold and precious stones.

When they got home, they invited their friends to a feast. Their friends thought they had come back as poor as they had gone. The Polos brought out their old coats that they had worn in China. They began to tear up the coats. Gold and precious stones fell out. Their friends had never seen so much riches before.

Some time later there was a war between the city where the Polos lived and another city. Marco Polo was taken by his enemies and put in jail for nearly a year. While there he told all about his travels to another prisoner. This other prisoner wrote out a book of what Marco told.

Some people thought Marco's stories were not true because he told of a great ocean east of China and a large island to the east. But we know now that what he told about the ocean and island was true.

COLUMBUS, THE FINDER OF A WORLD

A BOY WHO WANTED TO BE A SAILOR

YOU remember it was said that Alexander conquered the world. His world was a very small one, however. Yet for hundreds of years after his death no one ever dreamed that far across the western seas was a land much larger than Alexander's world. That land was our own land, America. It was Christopher Columbus who found this new world only a little more than four hundred years ago.

Christopher Columbus was born in a great city of Italy, the same city where Marco Polo had been in jail. It was a city to which many ships came and from which many ships sailed. Christopher wanted to be a sailor. He liked to play down by the sea and watch the ships sailing away. He liked to talk with the sailors and have them tell of the lands they had seen.



HE LIKED TO PLAY DOWN BY THE SEA.

His father was willing that he should be a sailor. He sent Christopher to school, to learn the many things that a sailor must know. He studied geography and learned to draw maps. He learned how sailors tell which way they are going by looking at the stars. He liked to read books that told about countries far away. He may have read the book written by Marco Polo.

Christopher did not wait until he grew up to become a sailor. When he was only fourteen, he went to sea. For many years he lived upon a ship and went to many places.

When Columbus grew up he married, and for a time gave up being a sailor. He made a living by making maps and selling them to sailors.

A NEW WAY TO THE EAST

For many years spices and drugs and silks had been brought to Italy and other countries from the lands in the East. The silks and other things were brought on camels across the sandy deserts to where they could be loaded on ships. But at last the people living in and around the deserts

stopped this trade and would not allow the silks and spices to be carried through their land.

A new way had to be found. Prince Henry of Portugal thought that the best way was to go around Africa. He sent sailors to try this.

Columbus, like the others, wanted to find a new way to reach the land of silks and spices. One day he was looking at a map. All at once it came into his mind that there was another way that was very easy. He believed that the earth is round. He believed that the ocean Polo had seen east of China was the same one that was west of Spain.

"Why, if the earth is round," he thought, "cannot one start and sail west from Spain and sail on and on west and in that way reach the East?"

The more he thought about it the surer he felt that it could be done. But he was too poor to fit out even one ship himself. To get help he had to go to some king.

It took a very bold man in Columbus's time to think of crossing the Sea of Darkness as the Atlantic Ocean was called. Sailors were afraid

to go far from land. They thought they might come to the edge of the ocean and fall off or that some horrible monster would swallow their ships.

SEEKING HELP

Columbus first went to Portugal. He thought, as the sailors of that country were trying to find a way to those lands, that the king would be glad to hear of a new way.

The king, however, did a very mean thing. Without telling Columbus, he sent out a ship to see if there was land to the west. The ship sailed west until a great storm arose. This so frightened the sailors that they sailed back and told the king that Columbus's plan was a foolish one.

Columbus was angry at being treated in this way. He left Portugal and went to Spain.

It was not a good time for getting the king and queen of Spain to listen to him, for a war was going on. The Christians were again trying to conquer the Moors who still lived in southern Spain.

The king and queen were too busy to hear Columbus, but they had him go before some men who were thought wise and explain his plan.

They asked what they thought were wise questions.

"Can there be people on the other side of the earth who walk with their heels upward and their heads hanging down?" they asked. "Can the rain fall upward, and the snow?" "Can trees grow with their roots upward and their branches below their roots?" Thinking that things must exist upside down in a country located on the opposite side of the world, the wise men laughed, and told the king and queen the East could not be reached in the way Columbus had proposed.

Still Columbus waited month after month for several years, begging the king and queen to try his plan. The people thought him crazy, and even the children would tap their heads as he passed along the streets. At last he made up his mind to go to France.

THE CONVENT OF SAINT MARY

There is a little town on the coast of Spain, named Palos. On a hill near the town is a house where priests once lived. The house, which still stands, is called the convent of Saint Mary.

One morning the good priest who was at the head of the convent saw a tired man leading a little boy by the hand. The man came to the convent and knocked at the door.

"Good father," said the man, "my little son is hungry and thirsty. Will you kindly give him a piece of bread and a cup of water?"

The good priest gladly did this and told them to stay there and rest.

The priest began to talk to the man. "Who are you and where are you going?" he asked.

"My name is Christopher Columbus," answered the man. "I have been trying to get the king and queen of Spain to give me men and ships to find a new way to the East. But they will not listen to me. I am now on my way to ask the king of France to help me."

Then Columbus told the priest all about his long, hard years of waiting. When he finished, the priest said: "Do not leave Spain. The queen is my friend. I will ask her to listen to you again."

The priest wrote to a friend and the friend talked to the queen. She sent money to Columbus to



THEN COLUMBUS WENT TO THE QUEEN.

buy himself better clothes and come to her again. Then Columbus left his son at the convent, and went to the queen.

HELP AT LAST



IT WAS CALLED THE *SANTA*
MARIA.

When at last Isabella told Columbus that she would give him men and ships, he cried for joy. This was no wonder, for he had now waited seven years. He said that all the riches he should find he would use to fit out an army for taking the towns and places where Christ had lived and making the Holy Land a Christian land.

Columbus was given the power to force men to go with him, for the sailors did not want to

go. At last three little ships were got ready with about one hundred and twenty men. The ships were very small. The largest, the one in which Columbus sailed, was only ninety feet long. It was called the *Santa Maria*, the Spanish words for Saint Mary.

Before sunrise on Friday morning, August 3, 1492, the three little ships left Palos. You remember, before the battle in which Roland was killed the bishop had the soldiers confess their sins and receive his blessing. Columbus's friend, the good priest of the convent, had the sailors do these things before starting. It was a sad parting from their friends, for their friends thought they would never see them again.

THE VOYAGE

They first stopped at some islands and then started on westward. When at last land could not be seen, the sailors shed tears. But Columbus talked to them of the riches they would find, and cheered them.

The wind kept blowing them westward. "How can we ever sail back home?" thought the sailors.

Another thing frightened them. The needle of the compass no longer pointed north. The men began to complain. But still Columbus sailed on.

The sailors at last even talked of throwing him into the sea and then turning back.

Soon, however, they began to see signs of land. Birds such as live on or near land were seen. A branch with berries on it floated past. A staff was drawn out of the water, which every one saw must have been cut and carved by man.

A LIGHT! A LIGHT!

On the evening of October 11th every one felt that land was near. Columbus stood on the deck of his ship, trying to look through the darkness. About 10 o'clock he saw a light. He called a sailor to him and the sailor, too, saw the light. A few hours later the men on one of the other ships fired a gun. The signal meant that land was in sight.

No one slept that night. The sailors who had talked of throwing Columbus into the sea fell on their knees and begged for pardon. Others threw

their arms around his neck; others kissed his hands.

On Friday morning, October 12, 1492, Columbus dressed himself in a bright red robe; and, carrying the flag of Spain in his hands, he landed on the island. He and his men fell on their knees and kissed the earth. Then Columbus drew his sword and said that this land should belong to the king and queen of Spain.

Because Columbus thought he had reached India, he called the people he found on the island Indians. He sailed on and found more islands. He still thought these were the lands Polo and others had told of, but he could find out nothing from the Indians about any great king. At last on January 4th he started home.

THE RETURN

There was joy in Palos when he returned. The bells were rung in the churches and the people ran through the streets shouting. Through the crowds, Columbus went on to the king and queen.

He was received with great honor. They made him sit down and tell them of all he had seen. He

showed them the six Indians he had brought with him and the strange plants and birds.

When he finished, the king and queen knelt and praised God ; and the people sang a song of praise to God.

Columbus sailed three more times to America after this, but found no riches as he had thought to do. Once some Spanish men, who had made their home on the islands Columbus had found, put Columbus in chains and sent him back to Spain.

The queen was always his friend, but after she died he had no one to take his part. He died a poor and broken-hearted man. He asked that the chains in which he had been sent back to Spain should be buried with him.

Though he had not found a new way to Asia, he had found the way to a new world. He died, however, without knowing what a great thing he had done. To the end of his life he thought he had reached Asia.

THE PEOPLE COLUMBUS FOUND

WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE

ALL of you have seen pictures of the people Columbus found here; and some of you have seen some Indians. They are called red men, but their skin is more of a copper color than red. They have straight, black hair. Their jaws are large; their cheek bones, high; their noses, large and either straight or curved. They have small black eyes, set deep in.



THEY ARE CALLED RED MEN.

Some of the Indians to-day live and dress like the white people. In the time of Columbus all wore clothes of deerskin. They wore beads

around their necks and feathers in their hair. The men shaved all their hair but one lock, called the scalp lock. When an Indian killed another man in war, he cut the skin around this lock and pulled it off. The one who got the most scalps was thought a great hero.

The Indians wore soft shoes of deerskin. These shoes were called moccasins. In winter they used broad, flat snowshoes so that they could not sink in the snow.

HOW THEY FOUGHT AND MADE PEACE

They fought with bows and arrows. These they made with nothing better for a knife than a bone, a shell, or a sharp stone. They fastened a piece of hard stone to the one end of the arrow and a feather to the other. The feather was to make the arrow fly straight. The cord for the bow was of deerskin.

The Indians also had stone axes called tomahawks. These they threw at each other when they fought.

Before going to war they painted their faces red and yellow and blue, and held a war dance.

They danced around in a ring and threw their tomahawks at the trees and leaped and yelled.

An Indian could follow the trail of an animal or an enemy almost as well as a dog can. In war they were very cruel and they never fought as white men fight but hid behind trees and shot at the enemy.

When they made peace, they buried their tomahawks and smoked the peace pipe. They sat in a circle and no one spoke. The pipe was



THE INDIANS LIVED IN HOUSES
CALLED WIGWAMS.

passed around and each one smoked it for a little while. It was the Indians who taught the white men to use tobacco.

THEIR HOUSES

The Indians lived in houses called wigwams. This is how they built one. First they got some poles and set them in a circle. Then they tied the

tops of the poles together. Next they took skins and covered the poles, except a place for a door and another at the top for the smoke to go out.

The ground itself was the floor. The fire was made in a hole in the middle of this floor. On cold nights the fire was kept up, for there were no bedclothes, and whoever got cold and awoke had to put more wood on the fire. The bed was only a mat or skin laid on the ground.



A PAPOOSE.

THE INDIAN BABY

An Indian baby is called a papoose. The papoose was kept in a cradle made of deerskin, stuffed with moss and rushes.

This was often strapped to a board. The baby was kept in the cradle day and night. A strap was fastened to the board, and when the mother went to gather wood or berries, she threw the cradle over her shoulder. Sometimes she would hang it on a branch of a tree and the wind would rock the baby to sleep.

The Indians were given queer names. If one was born on a dark day, he might be called Black Cloud, or if the father had killed some animal that day, the boy might be called Big Bear or Gray Wolf. Other names given to Indians were Man-Afraid-of-the-Thunder, Sitting Bull, Rain-in-the-Face, and Strong Heart.

MAKING A BOAT

When an Indian made himself a boat, he cut two rings around a birch tree and stripped the bark from it without breaking the bark. Then he took two branches of cedar and bent them like two bows and tied them together for a framework. Then he turned the bark inside out and tied it to the framework and sewed the ends together with the roots of another tree. He found some wax on the bark of the fir tree and put this in the cracks so that it could not leak.

“Thus the Birch Canoe was builded,
And it floated on the river
Like a yellow leaf in autumn,
Like a yellow water lily.”



HE CUT TWO RINGS AROUND A BIRCH TREE.

THE INDIANS TO-DAY

Some of them live much as they lived in the time of Columbus. Most of them have been changed by the white man's way of living. Those who have not changed are the older men and women. The younger men are taking on our customs and are proving themselves willing to learn and willing to work.

If the white man had not made so many mistakes in his treatment of the Indians, the Indians would probably have learned long ago to live as we do.

One mistake that was made was in the schools they started for the Indians. In these they tried to make lawyers and doctors out of the Indians instead of teaching them how to work with their hands and make a living among their own people. Those who went through the schools lived among the white men instead of going back and teaching their people, or if they went back to their old homes, they could not make a living as a lawyer or doctor among the Indians, and so they went back to their old way of living.

The schools to-day at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and other places teach the Indian how to do all kinds of work, and the Indians are becoming as good workers as the white men. In the West they do almost every kind of work that a white man can do.

Some Indians have joined our army and proved good soldiers. Some are in the navy. In the West and Southwest they have become cattle raisers and farmers. They have built ditches to bring water to the land that was too dry for farming. They have laid the roadbeds for railroads through their lands. When the Colorado River was changing its course and destroying much farm land, the Indians built a bank or dike that made the river stay in its old bed. This is one of the biggest pieces of work they have ever done.

A few Indians have been elected to Congress and have gone to Washington and helped to make the laws for our whole country. Perhaps some day an Indian will be elected President of the United States and govern the country that once belonged to his people.

In a book called "The Indian of To-day" George Bird Grinnell says: "No people are more easily handled; none respond more quickly to genuine interest; none give more frankly and entirely their trust when it is shown to be deserved; none are more ready to follow the good advice of the trusted friend."



THE FLAG OF THE FREE

HOW OUR COUNTRY WAS SETTLED

WE have told how William Tell freed his country and how Robert Bruce freed Scotland. We shall now tell how our own country became free, for we were not always a free people.

After America was found, the people from different countries came here to live. Those from Spain lived mostly in the South; those from France, in the North; and those from England, along the coast between the North and the South. At last there were thirteen English states, or colonies as they were called. The people of these thirteen colonies had to obey the laws made in England, and most of the colonies had to accept as governors men sent over by the king of England.

Many of the people had come to America because they were not well treated at home and

could not worship God as they wished. Here they were happy and free.

THE KING TRIES TO TAX THE COLONIES

At last a new king came to the throne of England. He thought the Americans had too much freedom. He said that they must pay taxes and that this money should be sent to England.

Now the king could not tax his people in England, for this reason the Americans said that he had no right to tax his people in America. They also said that since Americans did not help to make the laws for England and America, they should not be taxed by those who did make the laws. They were willing to give money to help pay for the army and other things, if they were allowed to raise this money in their own way. The English would not hear to this, and at last war broke out.

The man who led our army in the long war of seven years was George Washington. He did so much for the colonies that he is often called the Father of his Country. After the war he became our first president.

INDEPENDENCE DECLARED

When the war with England started in 1775, not many persons thought of setting the Americans free. But each colony had sent some men to Philadelphia to talk over what should be done.

One day in 1776 one man said that the colonies ought to be free states. Some men were told to write out a paper to let the people of all the world know that we were going to have a country of our own and to be free from England. Thomas Jefferson wrote the paper, in which the others changed only a word or two.

This paper is still kept in the city where our presidents live. It is called the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 1776, a vote was taken and the men voted to sign this paper. July 4th is the birthday of our country, the United States, and we keep the day as a holiday.

To sign that paper was a bold thing, for if the men who signed it had been taken by the English, they would have been hanged. One of them said in a joking way, "We must all hang together or

we shall all hang separate." But they were not afraid.

One of them wrote his name in large letters. "There," he said, "the king of England can read that without glasses."

We ought to be glad that they were brave enough to sign. If they had not been, we might still be under the king of England.

The bell that rang that day to tell the good news is still kept in Philadelphia. It is called the Liberty Bell.

CHOOSING A FLAG

Now that there was a new country there had to be a flag, for every country has a flag. It is carried with the army into battle, and by each ship on the high seas to show what country owns it. The one who carries the flag in a battle must die rather than give it up to the enemy. The people of every country love their flag because it makes them think of the land they love.

The flag for the new country, the United States, was chosen on June 14, 1777. June 14th is called Flag Day. The new flag was just like the flag

we have to-day except that it had only thirteen stars. They were made in a circle. Our flag now has forty-eight stars, for there are now forty-eight states. The thirteen stripes help us to remember how many states there were when we got free from England.

Just why the stars and stripes were chosen we do not know. The stars in the blue field are like the stars in the blue sky. The red is in the English flag, and the white stripes between the red ones may be to show that we are separated from England.

BETSY ROSS

There lived in Philadelphia a woman named Betsy Ross. She had often made flags for captains of ships. Washington and some other men went to Betsy Ross to get her to make a flag of the new kind. They took her a drawing of it. In the drawing the stars had six points.

"That is wrong," said Mrs. Ross; "a star should have only five points."

"Would not a star with five points be hard to make?" asked Washington.

"It is very easy," answered Betsy, "let me show you."

She took a square of paper and folded it. Then she gave one cut with her scissors. Unfolding the paper, she showed them a perfect star with five points. Thus she had her way and the first flag was made with five-pointed stars.

Every year many persons go to Philadelphia and one of the things which they always want to see is the house in which Betsy Ross lived and in which the first American flag was made.

THE MEANING OF THE FLAG

We love to think that even the colors of the flag have a meaning. The white says, "Be pure." The red says, "Be brave." The blue says, "Be just and true." The white should make us think how pure were the hearts of the men who set us free. The red should make us think of the blood that was shed to set us free. The blue should make us think of heaven and God without Whose help we could not have been set free.

We should love our flag and we should do our best to keep our country what it is — the best country on earth.

A SONG OF THE FLAG

About thirty years after we were free we had another war with England. Once in this war the English ships were trying to take an American fort in Baltimore. An American was on one of the English ships. All through the night the guns kept firing.

When morning came, the American was glad to see that the stars and stripes still floated over the fort, for it had not been taken. He wrote a song about it, called "The Star-spangled Banner."

I shall close this book with that song, which I hope you will learn by heart.

Oh! say, can you see by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh ! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mist of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence
reposes ;

What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first
beam ;

In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream ;
'Tis the star-spangled banner ; oh ! long may
it wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave !

And where is that band, who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps'
pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight and the gloom of the
grave ;

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth
wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave !

Oh! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand

Between our loved home and wild war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-res-
cued land

Praise the Power that hath made and preserved
us a nation!

Then conquer we must when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust";
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall
wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave!



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few of the Macmillan books on kindred subjects

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THE EVERYCHILD'S SERIES

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(In preparation)

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